

The Tragedy of **H A M L E T**

A critical edition of the Second Quarto
1622, with *facsimiles* and
textual notes

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PREFACE

THE purpose of this work may be stated very briefly. It is to produce an edition at once readable and critical of the authentic text of Shakespeare's masterpiece, the tragedy of *Hamlet*. This is the more necessary since with one exception, to be hereafter mentioned, all modern texts are a conflation of those presented in the Second Quarto and the First Folio; in other words they give us something that Shakespeare never wrote and, as it is hoped the Introduction will demonstrate, that was never played upon his stage. Moreover, from the time of Rowe to the present day modern editions have been based upon the Folio text, collating the Quarto to supply omissions, to emend obvious errors, or, at the editor's caprice, to substitute one reading for another. Yet the text of the Folio appeared seven years after Shakespeare's death; the original had been cut and altered for stage purposes, and the language modernized by copyists and editors. To read the *Hamlet* that Shakespeare wrote we must revert to the "true and perfect copy," the Second Quarto.

Now it happens that of this genuine text there is no critical edition, not even an exact reprint. The Griggs facsimile is marred by various minor errors and omissions.¹ Viator's useful parallel text edition reproduces most of these and adds a few more. Until the appearance of the *Cranach Hamlet* in 1930 with a text based firmly upon the Second Quarto by the brilliant Shakespearean scholar, J. Dover Wilson, there was not an edition which offered the modern reader a fair view of Shakespeare's work. But the *Cranach Hamlet* is an *edition de luxe*, extremely expensive and inaccessible even in well equipped libraries. Since then, to be sure, Professor Wilson has given us another version of the true text in his *Cambridge Hamlet*. Yet it is a modernized text; it includes numerous Folio readings along with a few daring emendations, and it is marred by a superfluity of unwarranted stage-directions. There is still room, we believe, for a critical edition of the genuine text.

The present edition is based upon photostatic reproductions made by three surviving copies of the issue of 1604, that in the Harvard and Library (formerly the Devonshire copy), that in the Elizabethan

¹ See the check-up of these in *Modern Language Notes*, June, 1931, p. 100.

in New Haven (not in New York, *pace* Professor Wilson), and that the Folger Library.² This text has been checked throughout by collation with the copy of the 1605 issue in the British Museum and with the variants in the Trinity College and the Grimston copies of 1605 recorded by Wilson in his *Manuscript of Shakespeare's Hamlet*, pp. 123-4.

The present editors had begun and made fair progress with their work before the appearance of Wilson's acute and meticulous study of the two texts. Needless to say they have consulted his work at every point and, if they have often differed from his conclusions, they believe they have quite as often held more firmly than he to the principles that he has laid down for the modern editor.

What is here offered is not a reprint *verbatim et literatim* of the Second Quarto. That edition, as every scholar knows, is an extremely bad example of Elizabethan typography. It was probably printed in haste; it was certainly set up by a dull, if conscientious, compositor. It is marred by misprints which make nonsense of passages, by attempted corrections which produce confusion more confounded, and worst of all by omissions ranging from two long passages, which may have been deliberately excised, to the careless dropping of lines and half-lines—over thirty instances—phrases, and single words. Fortunately in most cases the Folio text enables us to correct the errors and omissions of the Quarto compositor, and for this edition the Folio has been collated line for line with the Quarto text. The editors have, however, retained on principle the Quarto text wherever it makes sense, refusing to accept a Folio reading which may seem to modern ears more poetic or even more significant. They have attempted to present not a blended nor a modernized text but the text of *Hamlet* as they conceive that Shakespeare wrote it, restoring omissions due to censorship or carelessness, and purging it of the errors of the old compositor.

A word must be said in regard to the punctuation. The editors do not share Wilson's unbounded admiration for the pointing of the Quarto. In fact Wilson himself is forced to depart from or add to this pointing in many instances. Yet there is reason to believe that it represents in the main Shakespeare's own punctuation, light, hasty, and, according to

² It may be noted in passing that the Folger copy alone of the three preserves the true reading in two cases (1. 4. 68 and 1. 5. 7) where owing to some imperfection in the presswork the others are guilty of minor omissions.

modern notions, altogether inadequate. It is more than likely that some stops, like many words, were omitted by the compositor; in certain cases it seems plain that the faulty Quarto punctuation is due to an overzealous press-corrector. The old punctuation has been retained wherever it seemed possible to do so without destroying the sense of the passage, and every departure therefrom has been recorded and defended in the textual notes.

The matter of stage-directions has given the editors considerable trouble. Those of the Quarto are lamentably deficient; there is some reason to believe that Shakespeare often omitted them knowing that they would be supplied in rehearsal and noted in the prompt-book. Those of the Folio are fuller and point directly to the stage practice of Shakespeare's own company. But at times stage-directions in the Folio are wanting, possibly omitted by the scribe who prepared the "copy" for that text, even when they are needed to make the situation clear to the reader. In such cases they have been supplied in the briefest possible form and recorded in the notes. Needless to say the act and scene divisions, altogether absent in the Quarto and imperfectly supplied in the Folio, have been omitted as well as the indications of the place of action wanting in all old texts and supplied by modern editors from Rowe on.

* After some consideration the editors have thought best to present a text unmarred by brackets or other signs of alteration. Such a text, disfigured in many lines on almost every page by these devices, would be a thing of offense to the modern reader and would necessarily distract his attention from what the editors wish to present, the true text of *Hamlet*. As a matter of course all departures, however minute, from the original text are noted and, it is hoped, justified in the *apparatus criticus* at the bottom of each page. The line references throughout are to the lining of the Globe edition.

The *apparatus* is at once textual and exegetical. It records all variants of existing copies of the Quarto and all those of the Folio, with the exception in this latter case of mere variant spellings. It notes, where necessary, and only where necessary, the emendations proposed by modern editors. It justifies the restoration of omitted words and passages and attempts the interpretation of certain famous passages as well as the explanation of obsolete words or words whose significance

has changed since Shakespeare's day. It does not pretend to offer dramatic or aesthetic criticism, to pluck out the heart of Hamlet's mystery, to whitewash the character of King Claudius, or to establish the dramatic value of the Dumb Show. Such criticism must rest, if it is to be justified, upon a true text and it is at least a close approximation to such a text that the editors aspire to offer.

The Introduction deals with the early sources of the Hamlet story, its first appearance in Saxo Grammaticus and its Renaissance version in the French of Belleforest. It then takes up the vexed question of the pre-Shakespearean dramatization of the tale, the authorship of the lost play, and the possibility of its reconstruction from the known works of Kyd and from the German play *Der Bestrafte Brudermord*. A separate section is devoted to each of the three Shakespearean texts, First Quarto, Second Quarto, and First Folio, their derivation, interrelation, and authority. It is hoped that these sections embody in concise and readable form the results of modern scholarship, but the editors do not flatter themselves that their statements will be universally accepted. The labyrinth of textual criticism is devious and winding, particularly so in the case of *Hamlet*; the editors may at times have gone astray. It is to be hoped that they have in the end found their way out to the true conclusion, and in this hope the present work is respectfully submitted to the consideration, the praise or blame, of all lovers of Shakespeare.

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T. M. P.

H. C.

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INTRODUCTION

I

THE SOURCES OF *Hamlet*

THE story of *Hamlet*, the wise youth who feigned madness to preserve his own life, and avenge his father's death upon a murderous uncle, goes far back into the heroic age of Scandinavia. Its origin, no doubt, was in one of the bloody family feuds well known in Northern history and saga. Viking sailors carried the tale to Ireland whence it returned to its home in the North adorned with various accretions of Celtic folk-lore and historical adventure, to become in later days part of the traditional history of Denmark. The name of the hero first appears in an Irish lament attributed to Queen Gormflaith whose husband, Niall, was slain in battle (A.D. 919) by the Dane Amhlaide. This name is the Irish form of the Icelandic Amloði¹ which first appears in a bit of Icelandic verse quoted by Snorri in the *Prose Edda* (ca. 1230) and attributed by him to a certain Snæbjörn.² The note following the few lines of verse in the *Edda* says: "Here the sea is called Amloði's quern." This seems clearly an allusion to one of the wise speeches of Amlethus recorded by Saxo, namely that the sand

¹ The story of *Hamlet* is originally and essentially a Scandinavian saga, but it is an interesting fact that the name of the hero, Amloði, is a unique name in Northern literature with no associations and no discoverable Germanic etymology. Kemp Malone (*Literary History of Hamlet*, 1923, and later in *Philological Quarterly*, 1925, and *Review of English Studies*, July 1929) has made the interesting suggestion that it is not strictly a proper name at all but a compound of proper name and epithet. He assumes that a bearer of one of the many forms of the common Scandinavian name *Anlafir*, *Anlaf*, *Anle* carried also the epithet *oðe* (Middle English, *wod*) furious, mad, so that he was generally known as *Anle, oðe* to distinguish him from various other *Anles*. In Ireland this compound was taken for a proper name and Celticized as *Amhlaide*, the slayer of Niall. From Ireland this distortion of the name plus epithet was carried back to Iceland by Viking rovers where it took the form of *Amloði*, Latinized later by Saxo into *Amlethus*. Malone's conjecture has not been universally accepted, but it is an ingenious etymology and explains as nothing else does the derivation and change of the name. His further suggestion that the original bearer of the name was *Onela*, the good king of *Beowulf*, awaits further demonstration.

² For Gormflaith's lay and the verses of Snæbjörn see Gollancz, *The Sources of Hamlet*, 1926.

of the shore, which his companions mockingly called meal, had been ground fine (*permolita*) by the churn of the sea. If this be so, we may infer a knowledge of a well developed Hamlet saga in Iceland sometime previous to Snorri's compilation of the *Edda*.

Q It is more than likely that the tale of Hamlet took definite shape in that motherland of Northern saga, Iceland, but it first appeared in literature in the *Historia Danica* of Saxo Grammaticus,³ a learned clerk in the service of the great Danish bishop, Absalon (1128-1201). Saxo, like his predecessor, Geoffrey of Monmouth, made little or no distinction between history, myth, and tradition. He pays high tribute to "the men of Thule" (Iceland) whose treasures of history, he says, he has drawn on for no small part of his work. There is some reason to believe that the original version of the Hamlet-saga, which he included in the third and fourth books of the *Historia*, was couched in a style and language that sometimes baffled him. It is hard to account for certain obscure and at times incomprehensible passages⁴ in Saxo's Latin except on the hypothesis that he is translating from an original he did not always understand.

^ Saxo's narrative is too well known to need repetition here, but the main points: the killing of the Danish ruler by his brother, the brother's marriage with the widow, the feigned madness and real craft of the

³ The fullest account of Saxo and his work appears in Paul Herrmann's *Erläuterungen zu den ersten neun Büchern der dänischen Geschichte des Saxo Grammaticus*, Leipzig, 1922. Saxo (ca. 1150-1216) apparently wrote the first nine books of the *Historia*, which contain the old Danish legends and traditions, in the early years of the thirteenth century.

⁴ See for example the references to Undensakre, the incident of the gadfly and the straw, and Hamlet's quibbling answer as to his pillow in the fen—*Sources of Hamlet*, pp. 25, 109, p. 26 n.2. Herrmann explains that Saxo misunderstood the poetical expression, "Fialler withdrew to Undensakre" (the land of the dead), meaning simply "Fialler died," and so spoke of Undensakre as "a place unknown to men today." In the same way Saxo did not recognize the names of the plants—coxcomb, horsehoof, and reed—that served for Hamlet's pillow, and accordingly invented an elaborate explanation of these names to rescue the hero from the charge of falsehood. The puzzling incident of the gadfly Herrmann explains as a sort of rebus equivalent to "strawback," an epithet applied to a common and foolish type of thief detected after plundering his neighbor's field by the straw sticking to his back. Hamlet's foster-brother warns him by this token not to be a "strawback" and betray himself by word or deed. Herrmann, Vol. II, pp. 252-3.

dead man's son, his successful evasion of the tests of his sanity, his voyage to England with letters bearing his death-warrant, his detection and alteration of the letters, his return, and the accomplishment of his revenge, all these have been constants of the Hamlet story ever since. The rest of Saxo's story, the elevation of the avenger to the throne, his strange adventures on his return to England, and his death in battle have dropped out of the tale since its first dramatization and are known only to scholars.⁵]

Saxo's tale introduces the chief characters of the story as we know it in Shakespeare: Claudius (Feng), Gertrude (Gerutha), Hamlet (Amlethus), unnamed prototypes of Ophelia, Polonius, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, perhaps even of Horatio in the character of the foster-brother of Amlethus. In the main, except for the Ghost's summons to revenge and the final catastrophe, of which more must be said hereafter, the tale runs along familiar lines.] Certain features of the narrative, however, indicate its origin in very early times; the spy in Gerutha's chamber hides under the straw (*stramentum*) of her bed, his dismembered body is thrown down an open latrine to be devoured by scavenging hogs, the fatal letters are carved on wood, plainly the old Runic writing of the North, and at the end Amlethus fires the great hall and consumes the retainers sleeping there before he goes to the bower to which his uncle had withdrawn (as Hrothgar withdraws from Heorot) to accomplish his revenge. [The character of the hero, moreover as Saxo presents him, is plainly the creation of a rude and barbarous age.] The blend of assumed simplicity with subtle craft, the delight in riddling speech, and the occasional outbursts of savage ferocity, all mark Saxo's Amlethus as a folk-lore hero of the old Germanic North. [There is no trace of the later ideals of courtesy and

⁵ The original Latin text is reprinted in the *Sources of Hamlet* along with a translation taken from Elton's *First Nine Books of the Danish History*, 1894, p. 3. A later, in some ways more satisfactory, translation into German is that of Herrmann, 1922. The elaborate commentary contained in Volume II of this work distinguishes between the original elements of the story, the "Hamlet saga," and the later accretions, which Herrmann calls "the Hamlet romance." York Powell's *Introduction to Elton's work* is a mine of information on Saxo, his sources and his work. Saxo's Latin is included in Wilson's *Cranach Hamlet*, 1930, and in Gollancz, *The Sources of Hamlet*, 1926.

chivalry in this primeval Hamlet. His transformation into a Prince of the Renaissance,

Th' expectancy and rose of the fair state,
The glass of fashion and the mould of form

is one of the miracles of poetic genius. Yet something of the old barbarian, something of his craft and cruelty, remains even in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.] (See Madanigah On Hamlet)

On the other hand we can see Saxo modifying the old saga. He introduces into it certain features borrowed from the story of the elder Brutus as told by Latin historians,⁶ and as a pious clerk of the Middle Ages he is shocked by the marriage of the murderer with his brother's widow and charges him repeatedly with incest, a charge based, of course, on the Catholic and sacramental rather than the old Germanic conception of marriage.

Saxo's history was widely circulated during the later Middle Ages, but only fragments of the manuscript have been preserved. It was first printed in Paris in 1514, reprinted at Basel in 1534 and again at Frankfort in 1576, evidently a well known book from which the Frenchman Belleforest drew his version of the Hamlet story.]

François de Belleforest, 1530-1583, educated at the charge of Marguerite of Navarre, deserted the study of law for the pursuit of literature. He attempted to attach himself to the circle of the Pléiade, but his feeble verse failed of recognition and he turned to prose. He became a historiographer, translator, and compiler of tales, a veritable book-seller's hack. He was gifted we are told with "une malheureuse fécondité," a phrase which happily characterizes his retelling of the Hamlet story. This appeared in the fifth volume (1576) of his *Histoires Tragiques*, a collection of tales translated for the most part from Bandello. There is evidence elsewhere that Belleforest was acquainted with Saxo; in his *Harangues Militaires* (licensed 1570) he included five orations translated from the *Historica Danica*. His version of the Hamlet story is drawn, as a marginal note (*Saxon Grammaire a escrit ce discours*) in his translation states, from Saxo's work with some omissions, one notable addition, and an intolerable deal of moralizing.

⁶ For Saxo's indebtedness to the Latin historians see *Sources of Hamlet*, pp. 27 ff. The similarity of the stories of Brutus and Hamlet has, perhaps been somewhat overemphasized by Gollancz and others.

In fact Belleforest seems to have regarded the tale as an opportunity to preach an interminable sermon on the text: Frailty thy name is woman. His one real addition is his statement that Geruthe committed adultery with Fengon (Claudius) before the latter slew his brother. A trace of this addition remains in the speech of the Ghost in *Hamlet* (1. 5. 42 ff.) and in Hamlet's own words (5. 2. 64). Needless to say this is an addition quite alien to the spirit of the old saga; there is plenty of bloodshed but little adultery in Scandinavian story, and it was, perhaps, unfortunate that Shakespeare inherited this addition to the tale from his predecessor.

Belleforest's *Histoires* seems to have been a very popular book; the British Museum has five separate editions of the volume containing the Hamlet story, and there may well have been others. It was translated, very badly, into English as *The Hystorie of Hamblet* in 1608, a unique copy of which is preserved in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge. As this translation is later than Shakespeare's play and at times uses the diction of the play rather than that of the French original, it may be disregarded as a source. It was, no doubt, put on the market as a result of the success of Shakespeare's masterpiece; there is no reason to assume, as has sometimes been done, an earlier, now lost, translation. The next step in the development of the Hamlet story was its dramatization for the Elizabethan stage. That there was a play dealing with this theme many years before Shakespeare set hand to it is now accepted by all students of Elizabethan drama. As early as 1589 Nashe in his preface to Greene's *Menaphon* indulged in an attack on certain "trivial translators" and "shuffling companions" who "leave the trade of *Noverint* whereto they were borne, and busie themselves with the indeavours of Art that could scarcely Latinize their neck verse . . . yet English *Seneca* . . . yeelds many good sentences . . . and if you intreate him faire on a frostie morning, hee will affoord you whole *Hamlets*, I should say handfuls of Tragically speeches. . . . *Seneca*, let blood line by line and page by page, at length must needs die to our

* Belleforest's *Hamlet* was reprinted in Moltke's *Shakespeares Hamlet Quellen* in 1881, and later by M. B. Evans in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord*, 1910, by Gollancz in *The Sources of Hamlet*, 1926, and lately by Dover Wilson in the *Cranach Hamlet*. The wretched English version, based apparently on the 1582 edition of Belleforest, has been often reprinted: by Collier 1841, Moltke, Furness (*Variorum Hamlet*, Vol. II, 1877) and by Gollancz parallel with the French original.

Stage: which makes his famished followers to imitate the Kidde in *Æsop* who, enamoured with the Foxes newfangles, forsooke all hopes of life to leape into a new occupation; and these men . . . to intermeddle with Italian translations."

The whole passage, too long to quote here, may be found in Nashe's *Works* edited by McKerrow, Vol. III, pp. 315-16, and is reprinted in Wilson's *Hamlet*, p. xvii, and elsewhere. It has been the subject of much debate, but the general conclusion is that it refers to a play called *Hamlet* written in Senecan vein by one of the poorly educated "translators" whom Nashe is attacking. That the author of this play was Thomas Kyd has been asserted with more or less confidence since the time of Malone (*Malone-Boswell Shakespeare*, Vol. II, p. 372). The reference to "the Kidde"—not, as Nashe says, in *Æsop*, but in Spenser's *Shepheards Calendar* (*May*)—would have no point at all unless readers of Nashe's preface could at once connect the Senecan play of *Hamlet* with Kyd, the author of the popular *Spanish Tragedy*.⁸

The next mention of the old play occurs in Henslowe's *Diary* (Greg's edition, Vol. I, p. 17, and Vol. II, p. 163): "In the name of god Amen begininge at Newington my Lord Admeralle men & my Lorde Chamberlen men As folowethe 1594 . . . June 9 Hamlet . . . viij!.." Henslowe is recording here his receipts from a series of performances at the suburban theater at Newington Butts by the joint companies of the Admiral's and the Chamberlain's men. Inasmuch as he does not add his symbol for a new play, *ne*, to the title of *Hamlet*, we may assume this was the old Senecan play. Whether it was performed as originally written is open to some doubt. Much in the way of abbreviation and revision may have happened to Kyd's play before it was acted at Newington. It is interesting to note that Henslowe's receipts for this performance, 8 shillings, were small indeed, compared with what he got from performances of Marlowe's *Jew of Malta*, 23 shillings, or "the

⁸ Chambers (*William Shakespeare*, Vol. V, p. 412) and McKerrow (*Nashe*, Vol. IV, p. 444) are unconvinced of the identification of Nashe's butt with Kyd. The passage indeed affords no absolute proof of this, but it is hard to escape the conclusion that the prime figure among the "trivial translators" whom Nashe attacks is no other than the Senecan dramatist, Thomas Kyd, and that "the Kidde" of Nashe's onslaught is dragged in by the hair to point with a pun at the author of *The Spanish Tragedy* and, presumably, also of the old *Hamlet*. Wilson, who long doubted this identification, now professes himself convinced of it. (*Hamlet*, p. xix.)

Gwies" (*Guise*), 54 shillings. Apparently *Hamlet* was no longer a drawing-card at the playhouse.

The next reference in point of time is Lodge's allusion in his *Wit's Misery*, 1596. He speaks there of "ye ghost which cried so miserably at ye Theator, like an oister wife, Hamlet, revenge." The mention of the Theater as the playhouse where the Ghost so cried to Hamlet shows that the play was now the property of the Chamberlain's men who had been playing there since they parted from the Admiral's at Newington. It is plain, therefore, that they had taken the old *Hamlet* with them and that it was now subject to revision, rewriting, or complete remodeling by William Shakespeare, one of the Chamberlain's company since 1594. Probably it needed a careful revision if it was to be a "get-penny." Lodge's allusion sounds almost like a sneer at an outmoded play. Before we approach Shakespeare's dealing with this, the immediate source of his tragedy, it is necessary to see what can be affirmed, or conjectured with some degree of certainty, about this old play, the so-called *Ur-Hamlet*.]

[It seems altogether likely that the author of the *Ur-Hamlet* derived his knowledge of the story from the popular and widely circulated collection of Belleforest, the *Histoires Tragiques*. If he were, as Nashe's words lead us to believe, a "Senecan," there were certain things that he would almost of necessity have done to the narrative to fit it into the mould of a Senecan tragedy.] He might have written a prologue introducing supernatural characters such as appear for example in *Gismonde of Salerne* played before the Queen by the gentlemen of the Inner Temple in 1568. He would probably equip it with a chorus like that in *Gorboduc* and he would quite certainly have introduced a ghost crying for revenge. [The revengeful ghost is, of course, a characteristic figure of Senecan tragedy,] and had recently appeared in English Senecan drama as the ghost of Gorlois in *The Misfortunes of Arthur*, a play acted before Elizabeth in 1588. The date is of some importance since it is near the time at which the *Ur-Hamlet* was probably composed; Nashe's scoffing allusion can hardly be to an old and half-forgotten play. Naturally the Ghost in this play would be that of the murdered man, like the Ghost of Andrea in *The Spanish Tragedy*. Yet if this Ghost were to call on his son for revenge, it would naturally follow that the son was ignorant of the murder and therefore that the

murder had been a secret assassination by the Italianate⁹ method of poison rather than by the sword of the North. This change, however, involved consequences which perhaps the author did not fully realize. In the old story the motive for Hamlet's feigned madness is clear and compelling; he feigns a stupid form of idiocy for self-protection. In the altered form there is no need of this, since the murderer, his uncle, cannot know that Hamlet knows of the murder, and has no reason to fear him, and in consequence Hamlet has no need to feign madness to protect himself. It would have been simpler to drop the antic disposition altogether, but the author could not well do this. It was an essential part of the story and moreover the immense success on the stage of Hieronimo in *The Spanish Tragedy*, who does actually play the part of a

⁹ Sarrazin, whose *Thomas Kyd und sein Kreis*, 1892, marks the first full and satisfactory study of the problem since the time of Malone, calls attention to the "half-Italian coloring of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, the atmosphere of intrigue, treachery, and strange modes of poisoning." He notes that a poisoned rapier is wielded by an Italian in *Soliman and Perseda*, a play generally ascribed to Kyd. It is perhaps worth noting that in *Arden of Feversham*, a play ascribed by some scholars to Kyd, Mosbie suggests killing Arden by means of a poisoned picture so venomous that it would infect whoever looked upon it. In Holinshed's recital (*Chronicles*, anno 1551) there is no mention of this quaint device; there the painter simply gives Mistress Arden a poison to mix in her husband's food. Can this Italianate poisoned picture be an invention by Kyd? Certainly strange modes of poisoning were ascribed by the Elizabethans to Italian ingenuity in crime. Simpson's note to *Every Man In His Humor* (4. 8. 16) tells of an Italian employed by the Pope to kill Queen Elizabeth by poisoned perfumes. Specially interesting as bearing upon the murder of King Hamlet is a report of the murder in this same fashion—poison dropped into the victim's ear—of Francesco Maria della Rovere, Duke of Urbino. The murder was charged on Luigi Gonzaga—cf. the names of Lucianus and Gonzago in *Hamlet* (3. 2. 250, 273). For this report, quite possibly false, of Urbino's death see Dennistoun, *Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino*, Vol. III, pp. 71-2, and M. L. R., October 1935.

Marlowe alludes to this method of poisoning in *Edward II* (5. 4. 31 ff.), where his professional assassin, Lightborn declares:

"I leamed in Naples how to poison flowers

Or wh. one is asleep to take a quill
And blow a little powder in his ears."

In the account of the Urbino murder there is no mention of the victim's being asleep when the poison was injected. This may be Kyd's addition, a natural one for a dramatist to make. Marlowe, then, may have picked it up from Kyd's *Hamlet*.

We owe the references to Dennistoun and the Marlowe passage to Professor Brooks Henderson of Dartmouth.

madman in his pursuit of revenge, was a guarantee, so to speak, of the success in a new play of Hamlet's feigned madness.]

In addition to this change at the beginning of the play there were others more or less forced on the author. He must bring his hero promptly back from the voyage to England. No good Senecan playwright would be content simply to dramatize Hamlet's adventures at the English court and his marriage with the English princess, as told in Saxon and Belleforest. A word needs to be said later about the device he adopted to hasten the hero's return. And finally it would never do to end the play with Hamlet's triumphal revenge and his accession to his father's throne. A good Senecan tragedy must end with the death of the hero surrounded by as many corpses as the stage will hold. Witness the general massacre, including at least one innocent victim, that concludes *The Spanish Tragedy*.] All students of Elizabethan drama will probably agree that if the manuscript of the *Ur-Hamlet* were by some lucky chance discovered these features at least would be found in it: the secret murder, the revelation and charge of revenge by the Ghost, the feigned madness of the hero, and the general slaughter of the catastrophe.

[There is, as has been said, good reason, although no definite proof, to believe that Thomas Kyd was the author of the *Ur-Hamlet*.

Proceeding on this assumption and studying the style and method of Kyd as seen in *The Spanish Tragedy*, it should be possible to go further in a hypothetical reconstruction of the *Ur-Hamlet*. Kyd was of all the playwrights in the 1580's the most confirmed Senecan. He had, says his editor (Boas, *Works of Kyd*, p. xvii), "Seneca at his finger ends." He read French easily as is shown by his translation of the French Senecan tragedy *Cornelie*. He knew Italian and translated Tasso's *Padre di Famiglia*. He could, therefore, have read Belleforest in the original and his Italian reading would account for the peculiar Renaissance atmosphere of court life, statecraft, embassies, intrigue, murder by poison, and so on which presumably pervaded his play and is still preserved in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. But Kyd was something more than a trivial translator. He was, says Boas rightly enough, a born dramatist with a keen sense for theatric situation and a marked ability for conducting intrigue through a complicated plot. His *Spanish Tragedy* was the outstanding success of the middle 1580's—Boas dates it between

1585 and 1587—and if he took up the Hamlet theme later¹⁰ he would naturally attempt to incorporate into his dramatization of this story features that had proved effective in *The Spanish Tragedy*. Some of these are apparent in the first reading; the theme of revenge, of course, is common to both, as is the bloody catastrophe. These are Senecan characteristics. More peculiar to the two dramas is the play within a play, used in *The Spanish Tragedy* to precipitate the catastrophe, in the *Ur-Hamlet* presumably to heighten the climax. An additional effect could be added to the feigned madness of the hero by letting a lady connected with him, Isabella the wife in *The Spanish Tragedy*, Ophelia the beloved maid in *Hamlet*, run mad upon the stage. And finally to afford contrast to the hero and to complicate the intrigue Kyd seems to have invented the character of Laertes, for whom there is no counterpart in Belleforest, a companion figure to the Lorenzo of *The Spanish Tragedy*, a true Renaissance courtier, versatile and polished, but reckless, ruthless, and conscienceless. It is a striking fact, not without significance, that both these characters engage with the hero in a form of entertainment, Hieronimo's play in *The Spanish Tragedy*, the fencing-match in *Hamlet*, that serves to bring about the catastrophe involving both themselves and the protagonists.

It may be objected that this hypothetical reconstruction of the *Ur-Hamlet* has gone rather far on very slight grounds. Kyd's play was never printed and is apparently irretrievably lost. Are there any remains of it which go to justify such a reconstruction? An answer may be found in the plainly un-Shakespearean portions of the First Quarto which have to be discussed hereafter; but there is an even stronger bit of evidence. There is a German version of the drama, *Der Bestrafte Brudermord oder Prinz Hamlet aus Daennemark*, first printed by O. Reichard in 1781 from a manuscript dated 1710. The manuscript has disappeared, but the text has been reprinted by Cohn, *Shakespeare in Germany*, 1865, and by Creizenach, *Schauspiele der englischen Komoedianten*, 1889.¹¹

¹⁰ It is possible that the theme was suggested to Kyd by the return of a troop of English players from Denmark in 1587. Their report of the Hamlet legend may have sent him to reading Belleforest.

¹¹ An English translation accompanies the German text in Cohn; another is given in the *Vuriorum Hamlet*, Vol. II, pp. 121 ff.

A *Hamlet* was performed by English actors at Dresden as early as 1626, and there is record of a performance, probably in German, in 1665. The version presented in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* is a gross degradation of *Hamlet*, marred by inclusion of a comic scene between a peasant and a courtier and by the distortion of Ophelia's madness into a form of comic erotic insanity. But the general run of the action and occasional phrases make its dependence upon an original English *Hamlet* quite certain. The question arises upon what version of the English *Hamlet*. The pronounced likeness of the German to the version of Q.₁—shown in the name Corambus (Q.₁ Corambis) and in the placing of Hamlet's scene with Ophelia before the entrance of the players—has led some critics to pronounce the German play a degraded version of Shakespeare's first draft of *Hamlet* as represented—or misrepresented—in Q.₁. But the important factors in a proper estimation of *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* are not its resemblance to a Shakespearean version, but its points of difference. And these deserve more consideration than has yet been given them.

The German play begins with a Prologue in which Night calls on the Furies to "kindle the fire of revenge" against the King who has murdered his brother to obtain his brother's throne and wife. There is nothing like this in Shakespeare's play; it is old Senecan stuff which might well have been written by Kyd.¹² The Ghost tells Hamlet that common report gave out that he had died of apoplexy. This cannot be a misunderstanding of the serpent's bite in Q.₁ but must go back to an earlier version. Later the Queen reports that Ophelia climbed a high hill and committed suicide by throwing herself down—compare the reported death of the bashaw who "ran to a mountain-top and hanged himself" (*The Spanish Tragedy*, 4.1.26-28). At the end of the German play Hamlet stabs the fop, Phantasmo (Shakespeare's Osric)—compare Hieronimo's uncalled-for murder of Castile in the last scene of *The Spanish Tragedy*. The King plans to have Leonhardus (Laertes) as well as Hamlet drink of the poisoned cup so that his treachery may not be revealed. Even more striking is the scene in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* which interrupts Hamlet's journey to England. The King had despatched him thither accompanied by two men described first as

¹² No similar prologue, nor indeed any prologue, appears in the German plays derived from English printed in Creizenach, *Schauspiele*.

Diener—servants, but in this scene (4. 1) as *Banditen*—ruffians. Detained by contrary winds (cf. Q.₁, 4. 6. 5. "crossed by the contention of the winds") they land on an island near Dover where Hamlet is suddenly informed by his attendants that they are commissioned to kill him. After vain expostulation, Hamlet obtains leave to say a last prayer and to give the signal for his death by raising his hands to heaven. He does so and falls on his face between the bandits who incontinently shoot each other. To make assurance doubly sure Hamlet then stabs them with their own swords, rifles their pockets, and discovers a letter from the King to an arch-murderer in England who was to kill him if the bandits failed to do so. He quite rightly decides not to go to England, but to return at once to Denmark. For fear, however, that the captain of the ship will also prove a rogue he decides to return by post. This serio-comic scene is, even in the degraded German version, quite in the manner of Kyd—compare the death-scene of Pedringano (*The Spanish Tragedy*, 3.6). It cannot possibly derive from anything in Shakespeare. If it stood in the *Ur-Hamlet*, as we may well believe, Shakespeare struck it out and substituted for it the incident of Hamlet's boarding of the pirate ship and of his courteous treatment there—an incident plainly suggested by Shakespeare's recent reading of Plutarch's *Life of Caesar*. Nor can we imagine this scene to have been invented by the German translator whose additions are limited to coarse bits of clownage. There is nothing in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* to correspond to the Gravediggers' scene, a favorite comic interlude on the stage, which would hardly have been dropped, if it had stood in the original of the German.¹³ The great soliloquies of *Hamlet*, which

¹³ Schücking, *Review of English Studies*, April 1935, suggests that this scene was inserted by Shakespeare after the first draft of the play had been completed. It interrupts the action, introduces some confusion about Hamlet's return to Denmark, and in the Q.₂ and F. versions changes Hamlet's age from youth to a mature thirty years. It also lengthens an already very long play by ca. 300 ll. It seems to have been written to show Hamlet as melancholy over the skulls and passionate in his encounter with Laertes. It also adds the comic figures of the Gravediggers.

As there is no parallel to this scene in the German play we may assume that it was wanting in the *Ur-Hamlet*. It appears, however, in the First Quarto, so we must suppose that Shakespeare wrote it into his revision of the old play. In so doing he broke up the simple dramatic structure of his source, but gained great dramatic effect. The change in years must have been designed to deepen the character of Hamlet.

appear, often in a mangled form, in Q.₁ are lacking in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord*, which does, however, contain a brief soliloquy immediately after Hamlet's return to Denmark. Here he upbraids Nemesis for delaying so long to whet the sword of vengeance against the fratricide—the appeal to Nemesis is quite in Kyd's manner—and declares that he cannot himself accomplish this revenge because the King is always surrounded by so many people—this, by the way, an excuse which Shakespeare's Hamlet never makes for postponing his revenge. Hamlet's cry "a rat, a rat" as he stabs Polonius, a cry so impressive that it found its way into the 1608 translation of Belleforest, is absent in the German play. Can one imagine that the English actors who took the play to Germany would have dropped it out if it had stood in the play they took over or that their German successors would have substituted for it the tame phrase "*Wer ist es der uns belauert?*"—who is spying upon us?¹⁴ All in all when these differences between *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet* are impartially considered, the omissions as well as the additions, it seems quite impossible to derive the German play from anything but Kyd's *Ur-Hamlet* or an *Ur-Hamlet* very much in the style of Kyd. Apparently an impartial consideration has been hindered by the fear of finding Shakespeare guilty of plagiarism¹⁵ in taking over so much of the action of a play by an earlier dramatist. This is a nineteenth century prejudice. As a matter of fact Shakespeare did exactly this when he rewrote *The Troublesome Reign* to make his *King John*; in his day no one would think of blaming him for rewriting a play that was the property of his own company.

[We may assume, then, that the German play in general outline and sequence of action fairly well represents a version of the *Ur-Hamlet* which English players carried to Germany late in the sixteenth century.

¹⁴ Hamlet's ironic request to the King to send him, not to England, but to Portugal "so that I may never come back" (*B.B.* 3. 10) is plainly a reference to the English expedition to Portugal in 1589 from which only one-third of the gentlemen volunteers returned alive. The allusion shows an English original, but if the *Ur-Hamlet* was written in 1588-1589, it must be a later insertion.

¹⁵ See Creizenach quoted by M. B. Evans (*op. cit.*, p. 3) and Furnival, to the same effect in his prefaces to the photolithographed reproductions of Q.₁ and Q.₂. This seems also to be the opinion of A. H. J. Knight (*M. L. R.*, July 1936), who holds that the source of the German play is "the Globe prompt-book of which some troupe of English comedians must have had or made a more or less debased version." Knight neglects the striking differences between *B.B.* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

That this version was a shortened and simplified version of Kyd's play is more than likely.] The players cared more for the sensational action than the highflown rhetoric of Kyd; they no doubt cut down his tirades and soliloquies and omitted all reference to the diplomatic relations between Denmark and Norway which, on the evidence of Q.₁ and the analogy of the relations between Spain and Portugal in *The Spanish Tragedy*, must have existed in the original. A trace of these, however, may be found in Hamlet's statement (*B.B.* 1. 4) that the King granted him the crown of Norway and in his last request to Horatio to carry the crown to "my cousin Duke Fortempras" in Norway. When the English version was translated into German and interpolated with comic stuff by German actors the resemblance to the original became still fainter. The attempt made by Evans and others to find in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* parallels to Kyd's style and diction are suggestive but hardly convincing. It is the action, the scenario only, of the *Ur-Hamlet* that survives in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord*.¹⁶]

¹⁶ Apart from the discussion of the source of *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* in Cohn and Creizenach, a great mass of scholarly discussion has gathered about this play. The best treatment of the topic is to be found in Sarrazin's *Thomas Kyd und sein Kreis*, in Blackmore Evans's, *Der Bestrafte Brudermord, sein Verhältniss zu Shakespeares Hamlet*, 1910 and in his article in *Modern Philology*, Vol. II. Tanager, *Jahrbuch*, Vol. XXIII, insists that *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* derives from Q.₁ a view refuted by Creizenach (*Modern Philology*, Vol. II) and by Corbin (*Harvard Studies*, Vol. V). Chambers (*William Shakespeare*, Vol. I, p. 412) holds that *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* derives from "the original text as written once and for all by Shakespeare . . . substantially represented in Q.₂ of *Hamlet*." Thorndike ("Hamlet and Contemporary Revenge Plays," *P. M. L. A.*, Vol. XVII) holds that *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* gives "some idea of the action and the main motives of the *Ur-Hamlet*." Schick ("Entstehung des Hamlet," *Jahrbuch*, Vol. XXXVIII, 1902) believes that the German play derives from the *Ur-Hamlet*. He thinks the last lines of the Prologue resemble a fragment ascribed to Kyd in *England's Parnassus* (1600) under the heading *Tyrannie* (p. 351, edition of 1814) which might, he suggests, have come from a chorus in a Kydian *Ur-Hamlet*. Eric, the name of the King in *Der Bestrafte Brudermord*, cannot be derived from Claudius, which may be Shakespeare's latinization of the original name. On the other hand the German version substitutes the name Phantasmo for the original Osric to mark the character in question as a foppish courtier.

Furness (*Vatiorum Hamlet*, Vol. II, p. 120) holds the German play to be "a translation of an old English tragedy and most probably of the one which is the groundwork of the Q. of 1603," i.e. a translation of the *Ur-Hamlet*.

An ingenious reconstruction of the *Ur-Hamlet* is offered by H. D. Gray (*Philological Quarterly*, June 1927). It is interesting and suggestive, but seems to transcend the limits set by *The Spanish Tragedy* and the German play.

SHAKESPEARE'S REVISION OF THE OLD PLAY

IT is plain from what we now know of the early history of the Hamlet story in literature and on the stage that Shakespeare did not invent the theme or come to it with such unconditioned liberty of treatment as was possible when he began, for instance, his dramatization of Cinthio's story of *The Moor of Venice*. That was a well-known Italian tale and Shakespeare was free to adapt it as he chose, to write a first act that drew practically nothing from the story and to impose a totally different and overwhelmingly tragic catastrophe upon the borrowed plot. When he turned to the Hamlet theme he was dealing with a play more or less familiar to theater-goers for a dozen years or so. What was expected, what was, we may suppose, possible, was not the creation of a new play, but the adaptation of an old one, a smartening up by elision and addition, a fresh treatment of character, the infusion of living verse into the archaic diction of the old drama. It is quite possible that Shakespeare's first purpose was little more than a revision of the old play for immediate acting purposes by his company. We shall see, at least, that his first attack upon the problem was in the nature of such a revision.

Fortunately we are able to fix within comparatively narrow limits the date when Shakespeare began to concern himself with this revision. It may be taken for granted that no *Hamlet* with which his name was associated was on the boards when Meres compiled his famous list of Shakespeare's plays sometime in 1598.¹ It is inconceivable that Meres, who seems to have good sources of information, who names at least four plays, *King John*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Midsummer-Night's Dream*, and *The Merchant of Venice*, that had not yet appeared in print, and who includes in his list the old-fashioned *Titus Andronicus*—it is inconceivable that Meres should have omitted *Hamlet* if there were a Shakespearean *Hamlet*: for him to name may take, then, the summer of 1598 as a *terminus a*

If this view of the German *Hamlet* is correct, if it represents in however debased a form the pre-Shakespearean *Ur-Hamlet*, presumably the work of Kyd, we are justified in an attempt at reconstruction of the play whose manuscript lay in the hands of Shakespeare's company after 1594. It was, like *The Spanish Tragedy*, a play combining Senecan and native English elements. It opened with the appearance of the Ghost, developed with his call on Hamlet for revenge, and progressed through scenes crowded with lively action and a complicated situation to the bloody catastrophe. It retained the dignified manner of the hero as in the source, added to it the real madness and suicide of the girl he loved, employed the device of a play within the play to heighten the climax, explained the hero's delay by listing external obstacles—the King's guard—and yet inserted a scene where the revenger waived an opportunity to kill the King at prayer in order to heighten his revenge by killing the soul as well as the body. It contained a scene of grim humor showing Hamlet's escape from the hired assassins, and brought him back to Denmark to accomplish his revenge and at the same time to fall a victim to the King's counterplot, and for this end it introduced a secondary revenger, Laertes, son of the slain Corambus, as a foil to Hamlet and as executor of the treacherous King, who, at the end, before the beginning of the play, made use of poison to effect his purpose. It was, we may suppose, written in Kyd's stiff blank verse packed with imagery, to Nemesis and heavy with classical allusions, yet varied from time to time with those flashes of direct dramatic utterance of which *The Spanish Tragedy* shows that Kyd was capable. The scenario was extraordinarily effective, but the play had been sunk into obscurity by its heavy and archaic style and diction. Such we may imagine was the old play that Shakespeare extracted from the coffers of his company toward the end of the sixteenth century and began to study with a view to remaking it to suit contemporary taste in drama.

The first definite allusion to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, on the other hand, is found in a note written by Gabriel Harvey in his copy of Speght's *Chaucer*. This book was printed in 1598 and acquired by Harvey, as a manuscript note on the title-page shows, in the same year. In a long note written after the table of contents on p. 394, Harvey reviews the contemporary literature of Elizabethan England and says *inter alia*: "The younger sort takes much delight in Shakespeares Venus & Adonis: but his Lucrece, & his tragedie of Hamlet, Prince of Denmarke, have it in them to please the wiser sort." Such a note might have been written at any time between the appearance of Shakespeare's play in print, 1603, and Harvey's death, 1631; but we are fortunately able to fix a limit *ad quem* by an earlier remark in the same note. This runs as follows: "The Earle of Essex much commendes Albions England." Now Essex was executed on February 25, 1601, and it is most unlikely that Harvey should use the present tense if this note were written after his death. Moreover, in a note on the preceding page Harvey asks: "When shall we taste the preserved dainties of Sir Edward Dier, Sir Walter Raleigh . . . the Earle of Essex." The "preserved dainties" refer, as the context shows, to unpublished poems still expected to be given to the world by living authors. We may confidently fix the date of these notes between Harvey's purchase of the volume in 1598 and the death of Essex. Possibly we may even narrow the space between these dates. As we have seen, Meres knew of no Shakespearean *Hamlet* in the summer of 1598, and, living in London, he was more likely to know of such a play, if it existed, than Harvey in Cambridge. In the autumn of 1598 and the winter of the next year Essex was busy with preparations for his expedition to Ireland and not likely to be commenting upon contemporary poetry. It is after his return in September 1599 during the period of enforced idleness before his revolt that he is most likely to have uttered the remark that was passed on to Harvey. We may then risk dating this note between September 1599 and February 7, 1601, when Essex made his mad attempt to seize the person of the Queen. We can hardly imagine Harvey speaking as he does of an imprisoned rebel. Somewhere between September 1599 and February 1601, then, a play of *Hamlet* ascribed to Shakespeare and commended by Harvey as pleasing to "the wiser sort" must have

been on the boards. Either Harvey saw it himself or heard such report of it from a friend in London as to justify his commendation. Certainly he could not have read it before the death of Essex as there was no printed version before Q₁ sometime in 1603. It is just possible that he may have attended the performance of the play at Cambridge spoken of on the title-page of this edition.²

The existence of a Shakespearean *Hamlet* somewhere between late 1599 and early 1601 is corroborated, it would seem, by what we know of Shakespeare's own methods and of the contemporary dramatic-theatrical fashions which so often determined them. Shakespeare closed his cycle of chronicle plays with *Henry V*, which may be dated with some certainty as produced in the summer of 1599. He then looked about for other fields to conquer. Perhaps the most tempting was that of the revenge tragedy.³ It had been given a fresh impetus by the revival in 1597 of *The Spanish Tragedy* and a new and peculiar thrill by Marston's *Antonio's Revenge*, a highly sensational tragedy performed by the children of Paul's probably in the winter of 1599-1600. The Prologue to *A Warning for Fair Women*, a domestic tragedy acted by Shakespeare's company about this time (S.R. November 17, 1599), ridicules the "filthy whining ghost" of the revenge play with his cry of "Vindicta," but it would appear that Shakespeare's fellows, and perhaps Shakespeare himself, realized the need of a play of this genre to meet the competition of their rivals. Shakespeare's own *Julius Caesar*, on the stage in September 1599, forms a link between the chronicle play and the tragedy of revenge with its Ghost of Caesar and its motive of revenge for his death. The connection between *Julius Caesar* and *Hamlet* is so obvious and has been so often pointed out that it needs no discussion here. It seems more than likely that Shakespeare turned at once from *Julius Caesar* to the revision of the old *Hamlet* relegated for some years to the obscurity of the company's archives. The nature and extent of this revision may

² Harvey's *Marginalia* was edited by G. C. Moore-Smith, 1913. The notes in question appear on pp. 231-2. The editor discusses the reference to Shakespeare in the preface, pp. viii-xii. See also Grierson's review, *M. L. R.*, Vol. XII, p. 218.

³ The fullest discussion of the relation of *Hamlet* to contemporary revenge plays is that by Thorndike, *P. M. L. A.*, Vol. XVII. At the time of the composition of this article, 1902, however, the existence of Harvey's note was apparently unknown to the author. As a result he inclines to date Shakespeare's revision of *Hamlet* somewhat later, 1601-1602, than now seems probable.

best be discussed in an examination of the text of Q₁. We may conjecture that Shakespeare took it in hand not later than the beginning of 1600. A line in Chapman's *May Day*, 3. 3. 196. (probably dating 1602), *Be not retrograde to our desires*, is a palpable parody of the somewhat affected use of *retrograde* in the King's speech in *Hamlet*, 1, 2, 114. Like other echoes in the Chapman play this is presumably of a play new to the Elizabethan stage. It therefore anticipates the published text of *Hamlet*, and shows that a form of Shakespeare's play corresponding, in this passage at least, to the final text was on the stage by or before 1602. It therefore corroborates the Harvey entry. It is worth noting also that Jonson includes the word *retrograde* in the list of those spewed up by Crispinus in *The Poetaster* (1600-1601), although the word does not occur in the extant work of Marston. It would seem as if Jonson, like his friend Chapman, was laughing at Shakespeare's use of this word.

III

THE PUBLICATION OF *Hamlet*

BY the summer of 1602 Shakespeare's *Hamlet* had won such success upon the stage that his company had reason to fear that it would be produced in a pirated form as their popular chronicle play, *Henry V*, had been in 1600, and their successful farce, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, soon was to be—it had been entered, S.R. January 18, 1602, and was perhaps already in print. Accordingly they arranged with their printer James Roberts for an entry in the Stationers' Register with the hope that this would forestall the unlicensed publication of their great tragedy. Roberts, we know, possessed the exclusive privilege of printing the bills by which the players advertised their performances, a right which he had obtained in 1593 by marriage with the widow Charlwood whose deceased husband had held it since 1587. There is no reason to think that Roberts, whose connection with Shakespeare's company was close and friendly, contemplated a publication of *Hamlet* without their consent. His entry, apparently, was what is known as a "blocking order," one to claim his exclusive right to publication if, as, and when he—and the company—pleased. The entry runs as follows:

[1602] xxvj Julij. James Robertes. Entred for l.^rs Copie under the handes of master Pasfield and master Waterson warden A booke called the Revenge of Hamlett Prince Denmarke as yt was latelie Acted by the Lord Chamberleyne his servantes. vj^d.

The effort of the company to forestall publication by this entry was futile. Sometime in the following year, 1603, there appeared the pirated version that they had dreaded. It bore the following title-page:

The Tragicall Historie of Hamlet Prince of Denmarke. By William Shake-speare. As it hath beene diverse times acted by his Highnesse servants in the Cittie of London: as also in the two Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, and elsewhere. [Design] At London printed for N. L. and John Trundell. 1603.

This is the famous, or rather infamous, First Quarto, and the title-page deserves some special consideration.

In the first place the reference to "his Highnesse servants" fixes the date of publication after May 19, 1603, when Shakespeare's company, properly described in the Roberts entry as the Chamberlain's servants, became by royal license the King's company. The date is of importance since the theaters were closed because of the plague from March 1603 till April 1604. The public was likely to buy Shakespeare's famous play in book form when they could not see it on the stage. The N. L. of the title-page stands for the publisher Nicholas Ling. Now a ling is a fish of a kind largely used, in Shakespeare's day and after, for food, either salted or split and dried. Accordingly Nicholas adopted it as his trade-mark, so that a fish entangled in a honeysuckle vine will be found swimming in the design of the title-page of Q₁, as on the title-pages of other his publications. Ling seems to have been a reputable publisher, a freeman of the Stationers' Company since 1597 and interested to some extent in literature; he had a hand in the publication of Nashe's *Lenten Stuffe*, 1599, and of Allot's *England's Parnassus*, 1600.¹ In 1607 when he was apparently retiring from business a list of titles once belonging to him was transferred to a younger publisher, John Smethwicke. The list includes: "A booke called *Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet & Loves Labour Lost*." It is plain that Ling's foray into the field of unlicensed publication of plays had not damaged his reputation or discouraged him from doing business with Shakespeare's plays.

It is another story in the case of his running-mate, John Trundell. Trundell, a much younger man, became a freeman of the company in 1597, but does not seem to have published anything for ten years. His first entry in S. R. is on July 27, 1603, "a relation of the many visitations of the plague." In general he dealt with ballads, newsbooks, and ephemeral literature. Jonson has a jibe at him in *Every man In His Humor* (1. 3. 65) where young Knowell declares that if his father read Wellbred's letter with patience "I'll be gelt and troll ballads for Mr. John Trundle." It is interesting that this allusion

¹ Hebbel (*Library*, Vol. V, pp. 153 ff.) gives reason to believe that Ling was the publisher of *England's Helicon*, 1600.

does not appear in the quarto edition of Jonson's play as acted in 1598. It must have been added after Jonson and his friends in Shakespeare's company felt that they had a bone to pick with Mr. Trundell. It is, perhaps, a fair assumption that young Trundell, just beginning publishing, secured a manuscript copy of *Hamlet* and persuaded Ling, a well established bookseller, to join him in the profitable, if not quite ethical, business of marketing an edition of this play. Such an assumption would seem to be corroborated by the subsequent fate of Mr. Trundell as far as the publication of *Hamlet* is concerned. The nature of the copy that he secured will be discussed later. The statement that *Hamlet* had been performed in the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford can hardly be taken literally. Both universities had long forbidden performances by professional actors within their precincts; the authorities at Oxford, in fact, were accustomed to bribe travelling companies who threatened to perform in the town to depart, *sine molestia*. There is no record of performances of Shakespeare's company at Oxford after 1593 when they received the petty sum of 6s. 8d. from the civic authorities.² At Cambridge the University authorities threatened scholars who attended plays with condign punishment, imprisonment or "open punishment according to the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor or Proctors." We must, it seems, assume that the statement on the title-page of Q₁ that *Hamlet* had been performed in the two universities is a rather impudent bit of puffery.

It was long supposed that the unknown printer of Q₁ was Roberts who had entered the play in the Stationers' Register in 1602. Mr. Pollard has shown that this is not the case. The curious headpiece at the beginning of the text with its two capital A's³ was the property of the printer Valentine Sims who had printed *Richard II* and *Richard III* in 1597 and *Much Ado* and *Henry IV*, Part II, in 1600. It is not found in books set up by any other printer, and it follows naturally that Sims, an expert printer of plays, was given the job of printing the 1603 *Hamlet*. There is no reason to believe that Sims had anything to do with securing the copy; to him, no doubt, this was a simple job of printing like any other.

² F. S. Boas, "Hamlet at Oxford," *Fortnightly*, August 1913. Cf. also Boas, *University Drama in the Tudor Age*, 1914.

³ See Pollard, *Shakespeare Folios and Quartos*, pp. 74-5.

We may imagine that Shakespeare and his fellows were deeply chagrined by their failure to forestall the publication of his latest and most successful tragedy, especially since the edition which Ling and Trundell issued can hardly be described as other than a travesty of the genuine *Hamlet*. They accordingly took steps to put themselves right before the public and arranged for a publication of the true text. Their man of business, Roberts, took the matter in hand and, apparently, entered into negotiations with Ling. In 1604 a second edition of *Hamlet* was put on the market with the following title-page:

The Tragickall Historie of Hamlet, *Prince of Denmarke*.
By William Shakespeare. Newly imprinted and enlarged to
almost as much againe as it was, according to the true and
perfect Coppie. [Design—Ling's design as in Q₁.] At Lon-
don, Printed by I. R. for N. L. and are to be sold at his
shoppe under Saint Dunstons Church in Fleetsreet. 1604.

The title-page of an Elizabethan play, like the jacket of a modern novel, often served to call attention to some specially attractive feature of the work. This particular title-page announces two interesting features, the first that the intending purchaser would get twice as much for his sixpence, the usual price of a quarto play, if he bought this rather than the earlier edition. This is approximately correct. Q₁ contains about 2,100 lines; Q₂ runs to over 3,600.⁴ Moreover, the purchaser is assured that this is the genuine article "imprinted . . . according to the true and perfect Coppie." Evidently the title-page of Q₂ was designed to drive Q₁ out of the market. The printer of Q₂, I. R., was James Roberts, as is shown not merely by his initials on the title-page, but by his headpiece of the Royal Arms at the beginning of the text. It seems a little strange that N. L.—Ling—who had been concerned with the "stolen & surreptitious" Q₁, should now appear as the publisher of the true copy, advertising it as on sale at his shop in Fleet street. Probably there was a simple business arrangement. Roberts may have convinced the reputable Ling that Trundell had palmed off bad stuff on him; Trundell, accordingly, was thrown out,

⁴ The number of lines found in a play of Shakespeare's differs according to the text used and the scholar counting. Chambers (*William Shakespeare*, Vol. II, p. 308) counts 3,929 lines in *Hamlet*. Hart (*Shakespeare and the Homilies*) counts 3,674 lines in Q₂.

Roberts, a printer not a bookseller, got the job of printing, Ling of selling, the new edition and everyone was happy—except Trundell who probably went back to selling ballads. Of the six copies of *Q*₂ now extant, three (Huntington Library, Folger Library, and Elizabethan Club, New Haven) have the date 1604 on the title-page and the erroneous signature *G*₂ (for *O*₂) on the last page. These three appear to be identical in every respect except for two trifling imperfections (1. 4. 68 and 1. 5. 7) due to bad presswork in the Huntington and Elizabethan Club copies, which are corrected in the Folger quarto. The three other copies (British Museum—last leaf lacking—, Trinity College, Cambridge, and Lord Grimston's copy) bear the date 1605 on the title-page and in the case of Trinity and Grimston the correct signature *O*₂ on the last page. Presumably this signature also appeared on the lost leaf of the British Museum copy, since the last full sheet, *O*, carried also the title-page, and the error, *G*₂, would have been corrected to *O*₂ when the date on the title-page was changed. These 1605 copies show some eighteen variants from the 1604 group, corrections introduced while the book was going through the press. There is no uniformity on the 1605 copies in these corrections—see the list given by Wilson (*The Manuscript of Shakespeare's Hamlet*, pp. 123-4).

It would seem to follow from these facts that the book was set up in 1604, that certain copies composed of uncorrected sheets were issued late in that year, and that during the printing various corrections were made including the altered title-page and the final signature. Thereafter corrected and uncorrected pages were bound up together and the books put on sale in 1605. There can be no question of a second impression, much less of a second, 1605, edition. The accepted date, 1604, for this quarto should be retained instead of 1605, as proposed by Wilson, since the book was certainly printed and copies presumably issued in 1604.

After Ling's transfer of his stock to John Smethwick in 1607 the latter published three editions of *Hamlet* before the closing of the theaters, one in 1611, another undated but probably after 1611,⁵ and

⁵ This undated quarto was printed by W. S. (William Stansby) for Smethwick. Inasmuch as Stansby took over the stock of his former master John Windet in 1611, it would seem that he did this printing job for Smethwick after that date. The Cambridge editors (Vol. VIII, p. x) state that collation shows this undated quarto to have been set up from the quarto of 1611.

a third in 1637. Each edition seems to have been printed from that immediately preceding and the only changes from edition to edition are the errors usual in reprints and a few corrections of patent errors in the copy. These later editions, therefore, have no independent authority for the text.

After the appearance of three or perhaps four quartos (1603, 1604-1605, 1611, and the undated quarto) *Hamlet* was included in the First Folio where it stands between *Macbeth* and *King Lear*. Some attempt was made here to divide the play into acts and scenes. The division is incomplete and not well done. It begins *Actus Primus, Scaena Prima* and *Secunda*, corresponding to the modern and correct division; but *Scena Tertia* covers the last three scenes of the act, lumping the Laertes, Ophelia, Polonius scene (iii) along with Hamlet's two scenes (iv and v) with the Ghost. We then find *Actus Secundus* and after the dialogue between Polonius and Ophelia *Scena Secunda* at the right place as in modern editions. After this there is no division of any sort, either act or scene. Apparently the transcriber of the manuscript on which the Folio is based tired of his task of act and scene division before he got very far. As is well known the Folio text is shorter than that of *Q.*₂ omitting over 200 lines and adding about 85. It was evidently printed from a manuscript differing in almost every line from the text of *Q.*₂. The idea that it was printed from a play-house copy of this edition corrected by reference to the prompt-book must be abandoned. There are so few bibliographical resemblances and so slight a community of error between the texts of *Q.*₂ and F. that it seems impossible that the latter should have been printed from the former, however much modified. The appearance in F., moreover, of three long passages (2. 2. 244-76; 2. 2. 352-79; and 5. 2. 68-80) wanting in *Q.*₂ forces us to assume the existence of an independent manuscript.

IV

THE TEXTS OF *Hamlet*

A. The First Quarto

NO copy of this edition was known to exist before 1823. In that year Sir Henry Bunbury found it bound up with other Shakespearean quartos. It passed from his hands into the possession of the Duke of Devonshire and from him to the Huntington Library. It has been taken apart and mounted leaf by leaf, but the last page is lacking.

In 1856 an English student at Trinity College, Dublin, unaware of the value of his possession, sold another copy to a bookseller for the sum of one shilling. This copy eventually found its way to the British Museum. It lacks the title-page, but fortunately contains the last leaf, so that the two copies supplement each other.¹

Ever since the discovery of Q₁ controversy has raged as to its nature, its bearing upon the evolution of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and its authority as regards the text of the play. A whole literature has gathered about this edition and even a brief summary of the controversy would demand more space than is here permissible.

In the main there have been two schools of thought; one asserts that Q₁ represents in a badly reported form Shakespeare's first draft of *Hamlet*; the other that it is nothing but a very badly reported version of the true and final text. Chambers (*William Shakespeare*, Vol. I, p. 412), for example, goes so far as to say that "Q₂ substantially represents the original text of the play as written once and for all by Shakespeare, and F., Q₁ and *Der Bestrafte Brudermord* are all in various ways based upon derivatives from that text."

¹ There are many reprints of Q₁. It may be found in the Furness *Variorum Hamlet* (Vol. II), in the Griggs photolithographic reprint (1880) and in the useful three-text edition of Viator (1891, revised 1913). A facsimile of the Huntington copy was published in 1931. Mention should be made also of F. G. Hubbard's attempt to restore this text, editing it with introduction and notes, 1920, and of the Bodley Head reprint edited with an introduction by G. B. Harrison, 1923.

In the light of present-day scholarship it may be stated with some confidence that neither of these theories can be accepted as offering a final explanation of the complex problem presented by the text of Q_1 . Each is too simple to be satisfactory. If Q_1 represents a first sketch by Shakespeare we are forced to conceive of him as writing at times verse that corresponds word for word and line for line with the later text, and at times writing verse that sinks from a flatness of which he was certainly incapable to sheer doggerel. The text of Q_1 , even when all allowances for bad reporting are made, is anything but a homogeneous product of a poet's, much less of Shakespeare's, pen.

The argument against the theory that Q_1 is merely a perversion of the true and original text is even stronger. We have in the first place a striking difference of names between Q_1 on the one hand and Q_2 and F. on the other. It has long been remarked that Ophelia's father is called Corambis in Q_1 (cf. Corambus in the German play). Every effort to derive this name from that of Polonius or to explain it away has been unsuccessful. It is clearly, as its occurrence in the German play shows, a relic of the *Ur-Hamlet*. The same is probably true of the name Montano in Q_1 , the servant of Polonius, although this name, like the one scene in which he appears, is wanting in the German. The Player King and Queen of the later text appear in Q_1 as a Duke and Duchess, and the lines assigned to them in Q_1 differ so widely from those of the later text that they cannot be regarded as due to mis-reporting.

Even more important as showing that Q_1 is independent of the later text is a striking difference in the arrangement of scenes. In Q_1 the plan devised by Corambis and the King to discover the cause of Hamlet's madness by overhearing an interview between the Prince and Ophelia is followed immediately by this interview. As a result we get in Q_1 the "To be or not to be" soliloquy (in a sadly garbled form) and Hamlet's abuse of Ophelia at a point in the play that corresponds to the middle of the second act in the true text, preceding Hamlet's talk with Polonius, his meeting with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, and the arrival of the actors. Exactly this same arrangement appears in the German play, and it is far more likely that it goes back to the *Ur-Hamlet* than that it was due to a blunder of the reporter.

A mere blunder is in fact impossible since the sequence of scenes in *Q.*₁ is quite satisfactory. If not a blunder and if the arrangement of scenes in the later text is the original one, we must imagine some reviser carefully breaking up Shakespeare's sequence and rearranging the scenes to speed up and simplify the action, a supposition which is almost incredible.

Furthermore there appears in *Q.*₁, act 4, a scene between Horatio and the Queen which takes the place of 4. 6 in the later text. In this scene Horatio informs the Queen of Hamlet's discovery of the fatal letters and of his return to Denmark. It is written in stiff archaic blank verse and is evidently a relic of the *Ur-Hamlet*. It simply cannot be a misreporting of the prose scene 4. 6 of the later text. This scene is of importance also as showing a quite different interpretation of the Queen's character from that of the later text, a point to be discussed more fully later on.

The mention of the archaic verse of this scene leads naturally to a consideration of verse of this character occurring at intervals throughout *Q.*₁, particularly in the latter portion of that text. A striking example is the speech of the King at prayer, corresponding to 3. 3. 35 ff. in the later text. A few lines will serve to illustrate this:

O that this wet that falles upon my face
 Would wash the crime cleare from my conscience!
 When I looke up to heaven, I see my trespasse,
 The earth doth still crie out upon my fact,
 Pay me the murder of a brother and a king,
 And the adulterous fault I have committed.

This is not a garbled report of:

O my offence is ranck, it smels to heaven,
 It hath the primall eldest curse uppon't,
 A brothers murther, etc.

On the contrary it seems clear that *Q.*₂ represents Shakespeare's elaboration and perfection of an earlier text which, it must be said, is quite good declamatory blank verse, though hardly poetry.

Another interesting example occurs in the closing lines of 5. 1. Here Q₁ reads:

- King: My lord, t'is so: but wee'le no longer trifle,
This very day shall *Hamlet* drinke his last,
For presently we meane to send to him,
Therefore *Leartes* be in readyness.
- Lear: My lord, till then my soule will not bee quiet.
- King: Come *Gertrud*, wee'l have *Leartes* and our son,
Made friends and Lovers, as befittes them both,
Even as they tender us, and love their countrie.
- Queene: God grant they may.

This is not a garbling of the later text, nor can it be a shortening; in fact it is a line or two longer.

A well known passage in Q₁ about the "warm clown—blabbering with his lips" who "cannot make a jest unless by chance" is wanting in the later text. It is evidently an attack upon a particular comic actor and there is some reason to believe that it was aimed at Dick Tarleton. Since Tarleton died in 1588 the attack must go back at least that far, and therefore belongs to the first form of the *Ur-Hamlet*. Certainly it is not in any way derived from the later text. There are also differences of motivation and characterization which can not be explained away as due to bad reporting. Thus in Q₁ it is the King who suggests the device of a poisoned rapier placed among the foils to be seized and used by Laertes during the fencing match. This corresponds exactly to the German version where a stage-direction tells us Leonhardus (Laertes) drops his foil and picks up the poisoned weapon which is ready (*parat*). In the later text, of course, it is Laertes who suggests poisoning his weapon as a supplement to the King's suggestion of the "unbated sword." Plainly we have here Shakespeare's expansion of the original version, not a misunderstanding of a Shakespearean original.

Most striking of these differences, however, is the characterization of the Queen in Q₁. After her son's rebuke in the closet scene she comes over entirely to his side. She declares:

As I have a soule, I sweare by heaven
I never knew of this most horride murder.

To Hamlet's appeal:

Mother, but assist mee in revenge,
And in his death your infamy shall die

she answers:

I will conceale, consent, and doe my best,
What stratagem soe're thou shalt devise.

Finally in the scene with Horatio referred to above (p. 28) she denounces the King:

Then I perceive there's treason in his looks
That seem'd to sugar o're his villanie:
But I will soothe and please him for a time,
For murderous mindes are always jealous.

and asks Horatio to commend "a mother's care" to Hamlet and bid him

Be wary of his presence, lest that he
Faile in that he goes about.

The last phrase refers, of course, to Hamlet's plan of revenge. It need hardly be said that this treatment of the Queen resembles that in *Belleforest*—and is very like that of Belimperia in *The Spanish Tragedy*—but altogether different from Shakespeare's presentation in the final form of the play, where she stands by the King against Laertes and is anything but an accomplice in Hamlet's purpose of revenge.

To sum up: the differences between Q_1 and the later version are so many and of such a nature that they cannot be explained away as due to bad reporting. It is because critics have ignored these differences and fastened upon the more numerous resemblances between the versions that such a theory ever obtained credence. ✓

A consideration of these resemblances leads to a third theory as to the nature of Q_1 , which now demands consideration. This theory acknowledges the complex and unhomogeneous character of the text and explains it as follows: It posits first a partial revision by Shakespeare of the old play of *Hamlet*. This does not mean, as the Clarendon Press editors asserted, a revision that went little further than the first two acts. Traces of Shakespeare's hand are plainly visible in the

text of Q_1 to the very end. In particular the Graveyard scene of the last act must be his. There is nothing to correspond to it in the German play and it is as unlike anything of Kyd's as can be imagined. The revision eliminated a good deal of the original matter, notably the scene of Hamlet's escape from the banditti which, it seems probable, came to the German play from the *Ur-Hamlet*. It is an interesting fact that Q_1 offers no explanation whatever of Hamlet's return to Denmark; it would seem as if Shakespeare had cancelled the Kyd scene without troubling in his hasty revision to provide the substitute of the encounter with the pirate ship which appears in the later text. Hasty and incomplete revision, such as we may imagine him to have performed upon the old *Titus Andronicus*, would account for the presence in the text of Q_1 of lines, speeches, and at least one whole scene (that between the Queen and Horatio) which are of the archaic type already noted. In particular it would account for the presence in Q_1 of the numerous parallels to Kyd's work cited by Boas (*Works of Thomas Kyd*, pp. l-liii). The most striking of these is the speech of the Queen quoted above,

I will consent, conceale, etc.

with which Boas compares Belimperia's,

Hieronimo, I will consent, conceale,
And ought that may effect for thine availe,
Joyne with thee to revenge Horatio's death.

(*The Spanish Tragedy* 4. 1. 45-7.)

Almost as close a parallel is found in a speech of Laertes in Q_1 after he has heard of his sister's death,

I will not drowne thee in my teares,
Revenge it is must yeeld this heart releefe,
For woe begets woe, and grieve hangs on grieve

with which compare Hieronimo's desire

To drown thee [his murdered son] with an ocean of my tears.
followed a few lines later by the couplet,

To know the author were some ease of grief;
For in revenge my heart would find relief.

(*The Spanish Tragedy* 2. 5. 23 and 40-1.)

Single parallels of this sort carry little conviction; but such an array of them as Boas has collected is not lightly to be thrown aside. Certain characteristic features of Kyd's style are, as Boas (p. liii) notes, missing in the text of *Q₁*, "the passages of semi-lyrical dialogue, the flights of rhetorical imagination, the handfuls of tragical speeches." He suggests that many of these had disappeared in the various acting versions of the old play between 1587-1588 and 1600. This possibility has been alluded to above, and it is also highly likely that it was exactly such archaic passages that Shakespeare's revision eliminated, substituting for them his own more purely dramatic poetry. One must not look for too much of Kyd in the text of *Q₁*.

It is likely that Shakespeare's revision of the old play produced a text too long for convenient acting in the "two hours traffic" of the Elizabethan stage. Certainly the *Q₁* text shows signs of drastic cutting to reduce it to about the normal length of 2,500 lines or less. Proofs of this cutting have been pointed out by Dover Wilson. ("The Transcript of 1593," *Library*, 3rd series, Vol. IX, pp. 36 ff.). The omissions range from the dropping of a couple of lines at three different places in the advice to Laertes to a cut of two dozen lines in the Pyrrhus speech. Hamlet's soliloquies were shortened and the long and difficult closet scene greatly reduced. Possibly several minor parts were dropped out altogether. It is not easy to be certain of these matters, since the cuts made for this acting version have been partly obscured in the *Q₁* text by the reported matter which is next to be considered, but Wilson estimates the length of the reduced version at between 1,500 and 2,000 lines, a version capable of production by a travelling company of six or seven men and two boys. This is a minimum; there appear to be at least eight speakers in the last scene and several mutes. It may well have been made for a provincial tour, and it was possibly on such a tour that Harvey saw *Hamlet* at Cambridge. Now for such a tour, in fact for any company proposing to produce the shortened play, the first necessity was a prompt-book with stage-directions, exits and entrances, directions for required properties, etc. Lawrence (*Shakespeare's Workshop*, p. 115) calls attention to two prompter's directions in *Q₁*, *Sound Trumpets*, 4. 1. 402, and *Enter Fortenbrasse, Drumme and Souldiers* at the beginning of scene 12. Both of these notes, calling for trumpets and a drum, are

evidences of the prompter's marginal notes—not things reported. On p. 118 Lawrence also notes that Q₁ omits all reference to the firing of "pieces," i.e. small cannon, behind the stage. There are four or five such directions in Q₂ and F. (1. 4. 6; 5. 2. 294, 360 and after the last line of the play). Lawrence ingeniously suggests that a company on tour could not carry even small cannon with them and accordingly substituted trumpets in the first place and cut out all reference to shots in the others. We must imagine, therefore, such a play-book containing at once a certain amount of the old *Hamlet* plus Shakespeare's partial and intermittent revision.

Whether or not such an abridged version of Shakespeare's first revision of the old play was ever staged in London we do not know. It seems unlikely. It is more probable that Shakespeare promptly took in hand a complete revision and that this was staged sometime before the Roberts entry—July 26, 1602. We may date it more accurately by some topical references in the Q₂ text.

The impending battle for "a little patch of ground" mentioned by the Captain in 4. 4. 28 seems suggested by the bloody fights about the sand-dunes of Ostend from July 1601 onward. Many Englishmen under the leadership of Sir Francis Vere took part in these combats and frequent bulletins² came back across the Channel to London.

Other, more specific, allusions occur in the scene where Hamlet talks with his friends about theatrical conditions. The "late innovation" (2. 2. 347) must refer to the Essex insurrection in February 1601, since "innovation" in Shakespeare regularly means a revolt. Hamlet's remark that "the humorous man shall end his part in peace" (2. 2. 335) probably refers to the disturbance at the close of an early performance by Shakespeare's company of Jonson's *Every Man Out Of His Humor* (early 1600). At the close of this play as originally performed, Macilente, "the humorous man," suddenly beheld a vision (perhaps presented on the stage) of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Overcome by the sight he fell on his knees, renounced his "humor" of envy and put up a prayer for the long life of the old Queen. (This unusual conclusion to a comedy was so disliked that, in Jonson's mild phrase, "many seem'd not to relish it"; we may imagine perhaps a small riot in the Globe. It would probably have taken something like

² cf. Harrison, *Last Elizabethan Journal*, pp. 95, 191-3, 196-7, 244-5, et al.

a riot which interrupted Macilente to make Jonson cancel this conclusion and write a new one omitting the vision. This he did, but when he came to publish the play later in the year (1600) he appended the first conclusion with five good reasons why it should not have been disliked.³ Hamlet's remark would have been a laughing reminder to his audience at the Globe in 1601 of the uproar there in the previous year.

The reference to the "little eyases" (2. 2. 345) is of course to the Children of the Chapel playing at Blackfriars since late in 1600. In 1601 their production of Jonson's *Poetaster* fanned the smouldering war of the theaters into bright flame. The Children, Hamlet says, are now in fashion and so berattle the common stages (i.e. the public theaters) that many wearing rapiers are afraid of goose quills (i.e. many gentlemen fear the satiric pen of Jonson) and dare scarce come thither. The whole passage implies an acquaintance on the part of the audience with the *Poetomachia* and can not have been written before the summer of 1601.

It is an interesting fact that this passage (2. 2. 352-79), though wanting in Q₂, is paraphrased briefly in the corresponding scene of Q₁: "the principall publike audience that came to them (the Tragedians of the City) are turned to private playes and to the humour of children." This makes it certain that the passage belongs to Shakespeare's revision of the old play, that it was omitted in the printed Q₂ lest it offend Queen Anne who had taken the Children of the Chapel under her patronage, and lastly that the interpolation of the play-book of the shortened revision by memorized bits of the full *Hamlet* took place after the summer of 1601. We may then fairly certainly date Shakespeare's second version of *Hamlet* between Harvey's mention of the play, late 1600, and the late summer of 1601.⁴

³ See Lawrence, *Shakespeare's Workshop*, pp. 101 ff., and the reprint of *Every Man Out of His Humor*, by the Malone Society.

⁴ Lawrence, *Shakespeare's Workshop*, pp. 103 ff. and p. 122, argues that *Hamlet* in the genuine form was produced in 1600 "most likely some time before August." To do this he rejects the passage referring to the Chapel Children as not part of the original text, but added in or about May of 1601. His argument does not seem convincing and overlooks the possible allusion to Ostend which must date after July 1601.

Lawrence further (pp. 110-23) holds that Q₁ was printed from an old play-book of the *Ur-Hamlet* colored by "sundry Shakespearean infiltrations." He gives good

In the summer of 1602, as we have seen, Shakespeare's company had Roberts enter *Hamlet* in the Stationers' Register. In March 1603 during the last illness of Queen Elizabeth the theaters were closed by order of the Privy Council. An unusually hot outbreak of plague occurred in the early summer; the theaters remained closed, and Shakespeare's company went on tour. They did not return to London until the spring of 1604. On such a prolonged tour the company naturally cut down all expenses by releasing all but the necessary actors; probably only the shareholders, their apprentice boys, and a hired man or two made up the troupe. The others were turned loose in London. It must have been one of them, a man who had taken minor parts in the now completed *Hamlet* as performed by the company in 1602-1603, who now played the part attributed by recent scholars to the "pirate actor." This is a hard phrase, perhaps too hard, for a poor rogue at loose ends in plague-stricken London. How he went about his work we do not know. He may have fallen in with that member of the now returned provincial company who held the prompt-book already described. It would be interesting to imagine them conversing in a tavern and agreeing to sell their goods to a publisher, the bookholder furnishing the manuscript of the abridged play, the late Shakespearean fellow promising to supplement it by bits from the full and lately successful version. Or it may be that one of the publishers, Trundell for choice, had already secured the manuscript prompt-book and was hesitating to publish it because of the wide discrepancy between its text and the stage version. If the pirate got in touch with him offering to improve the text by memorial reconstruction, Trundell would no doubt jump at the chance, hurry off to Ling and strike a bargain with him. Whatever happened, this at least seems certain. Trundell and Ling sent "copy" to be set up in Sims's printing shop. This "copy" consisted of the prompt-book emended and bettered by the aid of the pirate. What he contributed was matter of two quite different sorts. He possessed, of course, written in good legible hand the parts which he had acted. Two of these were the parts of Marcellus and Voltemand in the first two acts. The proof of this is the reasons for the belief that the basis of Q₁ is a play-book used by a provincial company, but "sundry Shakespearean infiltrations" will not account for the presence in Q₁ of Shakespeare's hand in nearly every scene.

almost exact correspondence of the speeches of these actors in Q.₁ and F., F. representing, as we shall see, the acting version. The long and difficult speech of Voltemand in 2. 2 except for a few very minor differences agrees word for word and punctuation for punctuation with the F. text. Wilson suggests that he also took the part of a Player, probably the one who played Lucianus,—note the exact correspondence of his lines in all the versions—and that of the Second Gravedigger and the Churlish Priest.⁵ He must have been “on” in the last scene for here we find a stage-direction *Enter Voltemar* (the Q.₁ spelling of Voltemand) *and the Ambassadors from England*. This can only be a misunderstanding of the pirate’s reporting that he, Voltemar, entered as one of the Ambassadors.

The second sort of matter that the pirate contributed was his memorial reconstruction of certain parts of the play. As might be expected the value of this reconstruction varies greatly from time to time. It is fairly good in the early scenes where, as Marcellus or Voltemand, the pirate was on the stage; a striking example of this is Hamlet’s first speech to the Ghost (1. 4). On the other hand, when the pirate was off-stage he had less opportunity for hearing and remembering, and his reconstruction usually amounted to little more than a faulty and unmetrical paraphrase. Thus, for example, Q.₁ omits the first twenty-six lines of the King’s first speech (1. 2) altogether and makes a dreadful mess of his following address to the Ambassadors. The reason for this is plain; in the acting version given in F. the Ambassadors do not enter till Claudius begins to address them; the pirate who had played Marcellus in the first scene was probably changing his costume to appear as Voltemand in the second, and so missed the first lines completely and made a hasty dash at the rest of the speech. Naturally he tried to reconstruct the great soliloquies in which Burbadge as Hamlet had won such fame upon the stage. Quite as naturally he only succeeded in catching striking phrases here and there and patching up a sort of parody of the speech. Thus in the first soliloquy (1. 2. 129 ff.) he preserves the “salt of most unrighteous tears,” “Frailty thy name is woman” and “like Niobe all tears” and other

⁵ It is doubtful whether he doubled in the last rôles since the correspondence between the speeches of these characters in Q.₁ and in the true text is far from close.

such phrases. In the Q_1 text, however, they are not in the proper sequence and the lining of the passage is quite out of joint. The reason for this, as for other mislinings of Q_1 will appear hereafter. Perhaps the most appalling of the pirate's garblings is the Q_1 version of "To be or not to be."

To be, or not to be, I there's the point,
To Die, to sleepe, is that all? I all:
No, to sleepe, to dreame, I mary there it goes,
For in that dreame of death, when we awake,
And borne before an everlasting Iudge,
From whence no passenger ever return'd,
The undiscovered country, at whose sight
The happy smile, and the accursed damn'd.
• But for this, the ioyfull hope of this,
Whol'd beare the scornes and flattery of the world,
Scorned by the right rich, the rich curssed of the poore?
The widow being oppressed, the orphan wrong'd,
The taste of hunger, or a tirants raigne,
And thousand more calamities besides,
To grunt and sweate under this weary life,
When that he may his full *Quietus* make,
With a bare bodkin, who would this indure,
But for a hope of something after death?
Which pusles the braine, and doth confound the sence,
Which makes us rather beare those evils we have,
Than fie to others that we know not of.
I that, O this conscience makes cowards of us all.

Here it seems plain that the pirate simply attempted to emend the soliloquy as it stood in the prompt-book by inserting some of the phrases he had heard Burbadge speak, such as "the undiscovered country," "grunt and sweat under a weary life," and "conscience does make cowards of us all." But there are other phrases in the Q_1 version which we cannot believe that Shakespeare ever wrote: "Ay mary there it goes," "the happy smile and the accursed damn'd," "and thousand more calamities besides." One can almost reconstruct a soliloquy spoken by an Ur-Hamlet in which the hero consoles himself

for the calamities of life by thinking of an Everlasting Judge who would reward the just and punish the wicked and by cherishing a "joyful hope of something after death." The inoculation of such a soliloquy by the profound and melancholy scepticism of Shakespeare's Hamlet has produced a most incongruous medley.

One could go through the whole play in this manner and detect traces of the pirate's insertions. We catch a striking one for instance at the very close of the play where Horatio's outcry "I am more an antique Roman than a Dane" shines like a star through the dull cloud of *Ur-Hamlet* verse that surrounds it. Occasionally when memory failed, the pirate allowed himself to introduce lines from other plays with which he was familiar. He puts a couplet spoken by Viola (*Twelfth Night*, 2. 4. 120-1)

Still we [i.e. men] prove
Much in our vows, but little in our love.

into the mouth of Corambis (*Q.*₁, scene 3. ll. 396-7)

Such men often prove,
Great in their wordes, but little in their love.

More striking is an echo of *Henry V* (2. 2. 58)

And tender preservation of our person

in the mouth of Claudius

In tender preservation of your health. (*Q.*₁, scene 11. l. 156)

The strange word *musk-cod* (bag of musk) applied to a fop appears in *Q.*₁ (scene 18, l. 83) in Hamlet's comment on the Braggart Gentleman

Foh, how the muske-cod smels!

It occurs also in Jonson's *Every Man Out Of His Humor* (5. 4) and in *Satiromastix* (l. 963 of the *Materialien* reprint) in both cases used of a fop. It is an interesting fact that these four plays had been quite recently performed by Shakespeare's company which would account for the pirate's memory of the words and lines he inserted into *Q.*₁.

The question next arises how these contributions of the pirate got into the copy for *Q.*₁ which was set up by Sims's printer. The basis of that copy is plainly the prompt-book manuscript of the abridged

play, as is shown by the retention in Q_1 of stage-directions and prompter's notes which could come from no other source, as also by the agreement in spelling and punctuation of the Q_1 text with the authorized text in passages where the two versions practically coincide, i.e. in passages where the manuscript contained Shakespeare's revision of the *Ur-Hamlet*.

We may suppose that at times the pirate handed over his written parts; this seems certain for the long speech of Voltmand already referred to. But in the main we must suppose that he dictated his parts and his memorial reconstruction to a scribe in the printer's or publisher's office, who transferred them to the prompt-book manuscript in the shape of corrections, interlineations, marginal additions, and at times on fresh sheets pasted into the manuscript, such as we find in the manuscript prompt-book of *Sir Thomas More*. Such a process would, of course, include considerable cancellation of matter already included in that manuscript—more particularly of such *Ur-Hamlet* matter as had been left standing after Shakespeare's first revision. It does not take much imagination to picture the state of the "copy" that was laid before Sims. We may well sympathize with the plight of his journeyman printer and not blame him too severely for the wretched book that came from his press. Dover Wilson's exhaustive studies of the text of Q_2 and F. have shown the inaccuracy of better printers than Sims even when dealing with better copy than that which lay before his compositor. We must then take Q_1 for what it is in reality—neither a bad report of Shakespeare's first draft of *Hamlet*, nor a bad report of the one true version but a reprint of a doctored manuscript, containing: a.) matter going back to the *Ur-Hamlet* (Kyd's or later revisions) b.) Shakespeare's verse added to the old play in his first revision, and c.) interpolations, usually, though not always, garbled from the definitive form of *Hamlet* as it was being played in 1601-1602. Another hypothesis held by certain scholars as to the immediate "copy" for Q_1 deserves mention in closing. This is that the "copy" was prepared primarily not to be printed, but for use as a prompt-book, probably for a travelling company. The motive for its preparation would have been to give to an earlier acting version of *Hamlet*, presumably an abbreviated form of Shakespeare's first revision, a closer likeness to the final form as it was being acted in 1601-1602

upon the stage of the Globe. Parts of the later text are evidently embodied in Q_1 ; to use the striking language of one scholar the true text has been, so to speak, "spattered over the surface of Q_1 ." The instrumentality for this transmission of the later into the earlier text must have been an actor, or actors, who had taken part with Shakespeare's company in performances of the final form and who, released from his company during the plague year, joined a touring company and contributed their parts and what they could recall of other parts to the acting version already in the hands of the touring company. From this combination of old and new it is supposed that a prompt-book was prepared.

If this be the case it is plain that what the company carried into the provinces was rather a travesty than a true version of *Hamlet* either in its earlier or in its final form. Some scholars have been disposed to doubt whether such a travesty could ever have been acted; yet it has been performed on modern stages intelligibly enough, at least to audiences familiar with the true version. No doubt a rustic audience was interested in the action—direct and convincing in this version—rather than in the dialogue. An actor ranting in Herod's vein could probably put over even the mangled soliloquies of Hamlet. The text of Q_1 is less absurd than that of the printed version of Greene's *Orlando* which Greg has shown to be a memorized reconstruction of their parts by a company on tour. It may be, therefore, that there is an element of truth in the statement of the title-page that this *Hamlet* was played at Oxford and Cambridge, though surely not "in the Universities."

However that may be, there is no reason to suppose that the tour was either long or successful. Dekker's *Wonderful Year* gives a vivid picture of the frightened horror with which travellers from London were regarded by country-folk during the prevalence of the plague in 1603. We must suppose, then, that the company returned to London penniless, and that by way of realizing promptly upon an available asset they disposed of their prompt-book of *Hamlet* to Trundell and Ling.

There is after all only a slight difference as regards the essential character of Q_1 between this hypothesis and that discussed at greater length above. In either case it is assumed that the basis of Q_1 is an abbreviated form of Shakespeare's first revision of the *Ur-Hamlet*

and that this abbreviation has been inoculated, so to speak, with passages from the final text reproduced by an actor or actors. Whether this memorial reconstruction took place in order to produce a prompt-book for acting purposes, or to provide more salable copy for Trundell and Ling matters little. In either case it is evident that the value of Q_1 for reconstruction of the text of *Hamlet* is of the slightest. Yet it cannot be wholly disregarded. To a certain extent it reproduces in print what was being spoken on the stage. Where it agrees with F ., the acting version, as against Q_2 ., it may quite possibly help to correct an error in that text. In a few cases it would appear that the compositor of Q_2 actually consulted a printed copy of Q_1 when doubtful as to the reading of the manuscript that lay before him. On the whole, however, the text of Q_1 must be regarded with grave suspicion and only resorted to for help in cases where the reading of Q_2 is undoubtedly wrong.

B. The Second Quarto

It has been taken for granted throughout the preceding section that a version of *Hamlet* essentially corresponding to that preserved in the authentic version was in existence and was in fact being performed at the Globe when the "copy" for Q_1 was delivered to Valentine Sims. In no other way does it seem possible to explain the infiltration of the text of Q_1 by matter evidently derived from a memorial report of the acting version. It remains now to examine the nature of the copy sent to Roberts and set up in Q_2 .

1. There is a general agreement among scholars today that the copy for Q_2 was a manuscript in the handwriting of Shakespeare himself. It certainly was not the "prompt-copy" used at the Globe in 1603-1604. This is plain for two reasons. In the first place the extraordinary length of Q_2 text of itself precludes the notion that it was ever acted in full at any Elizabethan theater. Statistics of length vary according to the edition used and the practice of the scholar counting the lines, but all authorities agree that the Q_2 *Hamlet* is the longest of all Shakespearean plays. Hart (*Shakespeare and the Homilies*, 1934), the latest and apparently most careful and consistent counter, gives the number of lines, verse and prose, as 3,668, a figure only approached

by the full text (Q. and F. combined) of *Richard III* which amounts to 3,600. Now Hart has demonstrated beyond possibility of contradiction that no play of over 3,000 lines could possibly be performed in the "two hours' traffic" of Shakespeare's stage. It would have taken well over three hours for his company to have played the text of Q.₂ and, while we may allow a little expansion of the two-hour limit for the performance of a play by so popular an author as Shakespeare, three hours is out of the question. A modern performance of the full text of *Hamlet* at the Old Vic. is said to have taken over four hours. Only a select audience of Shakespeare lovers would have endured so long a session.

Further the text of Q.₂ is marked by a noticeable absence of necessary stage-directions. It is sufficient to refer to the last scene of the play where there is no stage-direction for the fencing match (cf. F. *They play*), none for Gertrude's drinking of the poisoned cup (cf. Q.₁ *Shee drinkes*), none for the exchange of weapons (cf. F. *In scuffling they change Rapiers*), none for Hamlet's attack on the King (cf. F. *Hurts the King*), and, most striking of all, none for the successive deaths of the King, Laertes, and Hamlet himself (cf. F. *King dyes, Dyes*, after the last words of Laertes, and *Dyes* after the *O, o, o, o*, representing in this text, the expiring groans of Hamlet). It seems a fair assumption that Shakespeare, writing this final scene perhaps in headlong haste to finish his copy for rehearsal, omitted all these necessary stage-directions, knowing quite well that they would be supplied in the prompter's copy, and accordingly these stage-directions are wanting in the Q.₂ text printed from his manuscript. Dover Wilson (*The Manuscript of Shakespeare's Hamlet*, p. 91) remarks that Q.₂ is almost entirely free from any traces of the prompter's hand. This goes too far; it is hard to believe that Shakespeare wrote out the elaborate stage-direction for the Dumb Show in 3. 2 or the stage-directions, *Trumpets the while*. (5. 2. 289-90) and *Drum, trumpets and shot. Florish, a peece goes off*. (5. 2. 294). It is quite likely that such directions, and no doubt others, were written in by the prompter when the text was first read to the company or when it was re-read before the transcription for the prompt-book was made. (Wilson, *op. cit.*, p. 91.)

If, then, the "copy" for Q₂ was not the prompt-book, the probability that it was Shakespeare's autograph manuscript becomes almost a certainty. Indeed we may ask what else the "copy" could have been. Neither Shakespeare or his fellows would have cared to pay for another transcript of his original manuscript and the script itself was by this time valueless in their eyes since it had been transcribed to form the basis of the prompt-book.¹ Assuming, then, that the copy for Q₂ was in Shakespeare's handwriting another question presents itself, i.e. just what was the nature and purpose of this manuscript?

The Elizabethan technical term for a playwright's first draft of a play, the draft read to a company for their acceptance, was "foul papers." Of this the author was usually expected to make a clean copy with the necessary cuts and alterations to be submitted to the Master of the Revels for the necessary license, and this copy with the license and the prompter's added stage-directions became the "book of the play," the official prompt-book. If the author was unwilling or unable to submit a "clean copy," his "foul papers" would be copied by a professional scribe. Dr. Greg's discovery (*Library*, Vol. VI) of a reference to the "foul papers" of Fletcher's *Bonduca* shows that the author's first draft was sometimes at least preserved in the playhouse archives along with the prompt-book. This we may suppose was the case with the "foul papers" of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Professor Adams (*Hamlet*, p. 354) advances the strange suggestion that the "foul papers" in this case consisted of Shakespeare's original revision of the old play. He describes this (p. 348) as a manuscript in "a sadly patched-up condition, resembling the extant revamped prompt-book of *Sir Thomas More*." It was this manuscript with interlineations, marginal additions, pasted in substitutions, etc., which he supposes Shakespeare sent to the printer in 1604. It seems impossible that this should have happened. Dr. Greg (*M. L. R.*, January 1935) asserts quite rightly that the papers handed over to Roberts must have been fairly good to serve as "copy," in order for the printer to have produced so good a text—allowing for compositor's errors—as Q₂ presents. All the pains of modern editors have been insufficient to produce a readable text of *Sir Thomas More*. What an Elizabethan printer would have done with that manuscript if it had been laid b

¹ See below, p. 50.

fore him is hard to conjecture. And finally on the basis of Professor's Adams's suggestion one would expect to find in *Q.*₂ traces of Kydian, or at least pre-Shakespearean, meter and diction such as have been pointed out in the text of *Q.*₁. But there are none such; the text of *Q.*₂ is genuine Shakespeare and pure Shakespeare from beginning to end.

Another suggestion (Schücking, in *Berichte über die Verhandlungen der Sächsischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, Vol. LXXXIII, 1931) is that the text of *Q.*₂ represents *Hamlet* as written rather with a view to the reader, presumably in the form of circulation in manuscript—like that of the *Sonnets*—among his “private friends,” than primarily for the stage. Schücking asserts that an experienced playwright like Shakespeare would not have written a play far too long for production on the stage unless he had at least contemplated some form of publication. But there is abundant evidence that from the beginning to the very end of his career Shakespeare continued to write plays far too long for his company to produce in full form. *Richard III*, which certainly belongs to his first period, contains in the quarto text 3,389 lines; *2 King Henry IV*, 3,140 in the unabridged folio text; *Troilus*, 3,291 (quarto); *Lear*, 3,092 (quarto) and *Cymbeline* of the last period, 3,264.² None of these is quite so long as *Hamlet Q.*₂ (3,668) but all too long for Shakespeare's stage. Yet there is no evidence to show that he ever contemplated their publication. Other contemporary playwrights, Jonson in particular, but also Marston, Chapman, Dekker, and Heywood, published certain of their plays with dedications to friends and patrons, addresses to the reader, commendatory verses, etc., but Shakespeare never indulged in this practice. Nor is there any convincing evidence that his plays ever circulated in manuscript. The reference in the *Troilus (Q.)* preface to the “grand possessors” of that play is almost certainly to Shakespeare's company who had endeavored to prevent its publication. It is, however, just possible that in this one case the “copy” used by the unauthorized publishers was a transcript of Shakespeare's manuscript made for a friend after a private performance.

² For all these plays we have used Hart's figures (*op. cit.*, p. 148); for *Cymbeline*, see p. 136. Hart gives discrepant figures for *Q.*₂; on pp. 123 and 125, 3,674; on p. 148, 3,668. The difference of six lines is inconsiderable.

It seems best, on the whole, to conclude that Shakespeare's extraordinary fluency and delight in poetic dramatic composition led him constantly to outrun the strict limits of the "two hours' traffic." His friend and associate Jonson testifies: "he flowed with that facility that sometimes it was necessary he should be stopped." In the act of composition "the poet-artist," to use Hart's apt phrase, "took charge and pushed the actor-sharer into the background."

If the "copy" for Q₂, then, was not the old "revamped prompt-book," nor a version prepared for publication, we must assume that it, like the "copy" for other plays of his published before his death in quarto form, such as *Romeo and Juliet*, and possibly certain plays in the Folio, such as *Antony and Cleopatra*, was his original unrevised unabridged manuscript as originally submitted to his company. And this justifies the belief that Q₂ better than any other version represents *Hamlet* as Shakespeare finally wrote it, or, to use the words of its title-page, "the true and perfect Coppie."

Had this "copy" been set up by a skilled compositor and proof-read by the author, we should have today in print what does not exist, and what it is the aim of this edition to approximate, a faithful reproduction of Shakespeare's greatest work as he conceived and created it to satisfy his own ideals without regard for the exigencies of stage-production. We do not have this in Q₂, but, on the contrary, what is described by Wilson, its professed admirer, as "disgraceful as a piece of printing" and "a pretty mess of the autograph copy" (*op. cit.*, pp. 94, 100). For this there are several reasons. It is wrong to lay all the blame upon the compositor. McKerrow's illuminating study of Elizabethan printing (*Library*, Vol. XII) has shown that given clean "copy" in a legible hand a printer of that day was no more prone to errors than a compositor today; specimens in prose and verse examined by McKerrow are laudably free from anything but trifling and easily corrigible mistakes. It is a different story, however, in the matter of printed plays. Except where clean "copy" was furnished and perhaps proof-read by the authors, as in the cases of Jonson and Daniel, the text of many Elizabethan plays abounds in *crucés* that have baffled all succeeding editors. The evident reason is that these texts were in all probability printed not from the clean and legible prompt-books, but from the author's "foul papers," i.e. from a

manuscript altered, emended, enlarged, and deformed by cancelled passages. Traces of such difficult "copy" can be found in Q₂.

Further, we have reason to believe that Shakespeare's hand, like that of his enemy, Greene, was "sometime none of the best." He wrote no doubt at high speed, corrected, if we may judge from the three pages of *Sir Thomas More* believed to represent his autograph, as he went along, and, in a day when there was no standard of orthography, indulged in spellings that strike the modern reader as almost illiterate. There can be no doubt that for many of the errors and corruptions in the text of Q₂ Shakespeare himself is chiefly to blame.

But one cannot wholly excuse the compositor. Wilson's careful study of the text (*op. cit.*, pp. 88 ff.) has shown that, though conscientious, the compositor was unskilled, ignorant, and working under pressure. Roberts, his master, no doubt wished to get the true text of *Hamlet* on the market as soon as possible. As a result the text is marred by omissions not only of whole passages—some of which were probably deleted in the copy (2. 2. 244-76, 2. 2. 352-79, see notes *ad loc.*)—but of lines and half-lines—Wilson notes twenty-nine cases—and of more than fifty omissions of single words. It is disfigured by misreadings, "graphic errors," transpositions and repetitions of words, in addition to such "normal" errors in type-setting as might naturally be expected.

A word must be said here as to the punctuation of Q₂. According to modern ideas it is quite inadequately punctuated, but Pollard's study of the text of *Richard II* gives reason to believe that Shakespeare, except in long and carefully written speeches, was by no means particular about punctuation. Commas served him where we should use colons and full stops; and an occasional semicolon would denote a longer pause. It is likely that the compositor of Q₂ followed faithfully enough in the main the scanty punctuation marks of his "copy." He was inclined to omit these, as he too often omitted words; he sometimes substituted a comma for a period at the end of a speech and, like other printers of his day, he was apt to stick in a comma at the end of a line whether or not it was required by the sense. But his faults are as a rule easily corrected. Some of them indeed, were corrected by the proof-reader who, however, in more cases than one made matters worse by altering the punctuation to

correspond to his emendation of the text. An interesting example of this occurs in 5. 1. 12-13 where the original reading

to act, to doe, to performe; argall she drownd

was apparently set up

to act, to doe, to performe; orgall she drownd.

The corrector could not let this nonsense pass; he emended *orgall* to *or all* and shifted the semicolon so that Q.₂ reads

to act, to doe, to performe, or all; she drownd.

Another amusing case of the corrector's struggle with misprints and his ensuing change of punctuation may be found in 5. 2. 43.

There is no reason for regarding the punctuation of Q.₂ as sacrosanct any more than the text, but it is far superior to that of the F.¹ text (see below, p. 56) and Wilson, the most careful student of this matter, pronounces it (*op. cit.*, p. 207) "the best of its kind in the whole Shakespearean canon." The editors of this edition have endeavored to retain it as far as possible and to note and explain every departure from the punctuation of Q.₂.

In addition to the printer we have to deal here with the proof-reader, or as Wilson calls him, the press-corrector. There is plain evidence of his hand in the variants appearing in the six extant copies of Q.₂. Apparently a man of somewhat more intelligence than the compositor, he was unwilling to let what seemed sheer nonsense stand in the text and emended it according to his best judgment. Had he taken the trouble to consult the copy he would have done real service, but presumably the difficult copy, smeared by the dirty fingers of the compositor, was totally disregarded. As a result he produces such distortions as the following: where the printer set up

An hour of quiet thirtie shall we see (5. 1. 321)

he altered to

An hour of quiet thereby shall we see.

This makes some sort of sense, but a glance at the "copy" would have shown him the true reading:

An hour of quiet shortly shall we see

as it is preserved in F. He corrects what seems to him bad spellings as *step* for *steepe* (1. 3. 48), *by* for *buy* (1. 3. 70). At times he even attempts to correct the meter. In 3. 2. 166 the printer apparently set up

Neptune's salt wash, and Tellus orb'd ground;

the corrector's fine ear noted that a syllable was wanting and he emended the line to read

Neptune's salt wash, and Tellus orb'd the ground.

apparently construing *orb'd* as a queer Shakespearean verb.

Yet Wilson's final judgment on the corrector is that his emendations were "not entirely wanton," that he "studied the context to some extent" and, most important of all, that his emendations usually followed the "typographical structure" of what he thought a misprint. In short he was a conscientious and not unintelligent worker and it is usually possible to see through and to correct his miscorrections.

When all is said the errors and corruptions of Q₂ are such as might be expected of an ignorant printer and a somewhat rash corrector dealing with peculiarly difficult "copy." There is little of the arbitrary correction, modernization, and general editing which we shall find characteristic of the F. text. Where we can get back of the compositor and corrector to the copy we are in close touch with Shakespeare himself.

C. The Folio Text

When Heminges and Condell were assembling material for the Folio of 1623 they must have asked themselves when they came to *Hamlet* what version of that tragedy was to be supplied as "copy" for the printer. The easiest thing, of course, would have been to send Jaggard one of the several printed copies. Apart from the pirated Q₁ there were at least three other quartos in existence, those of 1604, 1611, and Smethwick's undated Q. This method of setting up the F. text from printed copy corrected by reference to the acting version of the prompt-book had already been followed in several instances, notably in that of *Much Ado*. That they did not do this is

plain from the fact that the F. text contains 94 lines not found in Q.₂. These lines must have been derived from a manuscript in the possession of the company. Two passages in particular (2. 2. 244-76 and 2. 2. 352-79) are of such length that we cannot suppose them to have been written into the margin of a printed copy of *Hamlet*. There are in addition a whole host of minor omissions, words, phrases, half and whole lines in Q.₂ that are supplied in the F. text. These corrections, like the longer passages referred to above, must have been derived from the company's manuscript. It would have been easy to mark for deletion in a copy of any quarto the passages that did not occur in this manuscript but to add these 94 lines and the numerous smaller additions would have so disfigured this printed text as to make it almost impossible as "copy" for a compositor. It may be doubted whether even today a careful and conscientious editor who read his own proof could produce a correct version of the F. text from a thus emended printed quarto; certainly it would have been impossible in the early seventeenth century, and we may be sure that Shakespeare's fellows thought so and consequently decided to send Jaggard a manuscript copy of the text of *Hamlet*.

What was the nature of this manuscript? The usual answer has been that it was either the prompt-book itself or a transcript thereof. This cannot have been the case and that for one simple, but hitherto neglected, reason. The F. version, like that of Q.₂, is far too long for an acting play on the Elizabethan stage. It omits, as we shall see, some 225 lines of the Q. text, but as it adds 94, the net shortening is only 131. Now a cut of 131 lines from the Q. 3,668 leaves 3,537. Hart (*op. cit.*, p. 149) reckons that it would take three hours and ten minutes to play the abridged text, a quite impossible extension of the traditional two hours.

Even if we were to reject Hart's conclusions altogether and imagine an Elizabethan audience accepting such an unconventional playing-time, there are other and decisive reasons for rejecting the theory that F. was printed from the prompt-book or a transcript thereof.

McKerrow (*Library*, Vol. XII, No. 3) has shown by a careful study of existing prompt-book manuscripts, such as *Believe as You List*, and of plays evidently printed from such prompt-books, such as *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, that we must expect to find in printed ver-

sions of prompt-books characteristic signs of preparation for stage performance. Such are: anticipatory warnings of actors and of properties about to be required, as for example, *Antiochus—ready under the stage* (*Believe as You List*, 1. 1877), or *Table, Chesbord and Tapers behind the Arras* (*Bussy D'Ambois*, 1. 1. 153), properties in this case not required till the following scene. With this last contrast the stage-direction in *Hamlet* 5. 2. 235, a *Table and Flagons of Wine on it*, not anticipatory but marking the appearance of these properties on the stage at the exact moment required by the action. Further we find such marks as the mention on an actor's entrance of a property he will require later in the scene; thus in the *The Spanish Curate* 2. 1, *Enter Leandro with a letter writ out*, the letter being required for presentation to the curate a good many lines later. Occasionally we find the mention of an actor's name added to the name of the character he is playing as *Enter Demetrius—William Pattrick* (*Believe as You List*, 1. 607). And finally there occurs not infrequently the entrance of a character before the proper time for his appearance on the stage as in *The Two Noble Kinsmen* 1. 3, where we find the stage-direction *Two Hearses ready with Palamon and Arcite*, although the two kinsmen do not come on the stage in the hearses until after the *battle within* which opens the next scene. None of these characteristic marks of a text printed from a prompt-book appear in the F. text of *Hamlet*.

If the copy for *Hamlet* sent to Jaggard for inclusion in the 1623 Folio was neither the prompt-book nor a transcript of the prompt-book, what was it? All the evidence goes to show that it was a transcript of a certain manuscript associated with the actual performance of *Hamlet* at the Globe, not the prompt-book, but, probably, the manuscript on which the final prompt-book prepared for the licenser, from which the actors' parts would be transcribed, was based. In other words the manuscript that lies behind the F. text may be regarded as a first revision of Shakespeare's original, a revision made for acting purposes. When we compare the F. with the Q₂ text we see at once that many of the omissions and alterations in the former have been made with an eye to theatrical presentation. Long and difficult passages of the original have been struck out, such as Horatio's account of the portents in Caesar's Rome (1. 1. 108-25) and

Hamlet's comment on Danish intemperance which ends with the *dram of eale crux*. The long closet scene (3. 4) has been considerably shortened, and some of the cuts (3. 4. 71-6, 78-81, 161-5, 167-70) are so skilful that one is almost tempted to believe that they were made by the author himself when asked to abbreviate this scene. The part of Hamlet himself has been shortened by some 170 lines, almost two-thirds of the whole number of lines dropped in the F. text. The most striking omission in his part is that of the soliloquy following the march over the stage of the army of Fortinbras (4. 4). It is an interesting fact that both Q.₁ and F. preserve the march but drop the soliloquy, that is the players kept the spectacle but cut out Hamlet's meditative speech. Most modern acting versions omit both the spectacle and the speech.

Further, this transcript was prepared with a view to lessening the number of actors required. No major part, of course, is cancelled; none even of the secondary rôles disappears, but there is evidently an intention to reduce the number of supers or mutes called for by the Q.₂ text. Thus a Q.₂ stage-direction at the beginning of 4. 3 *Enter King and two or three* becomes in F. *Enter King*, rather to the disadvantage of the text, since in Q.₂ the King is addressing his councillors, while in F. his soliloquy is plainly addressed to the audience. Some ten lines later in the Q. the stage-direction *Enter Rosencrans and all the rest* (a rather careless stage-direction of the author's) becomes in F. *Enter Rösincrane*. It seems characteristic of Shakespeare's haste and his reliance upon the prompter for specific directions that almost immediately after this entrance of Rosencrans, Q.₂ has *They enter*, which F. very properly alters to *Enter Hamlet and Guildensterne*. In 3. 2. 358 Q.₂ has *Enter the Players with Recorders* with F. changes for economy's sake into *Enter one with a Recorder*, saving thus not only a super but needless properties. An attempt to save a speaking part in 4. 5 has resulted in considerable damage to the text. The Q. introduces at the beginning of the scene Horatio, the Queen, and a Gentleman. The Gentleman reports Ophelia's distraction, the Queen at first refuses to see her, but Horatio persuades her that it would be politic to do so. The F. text eliminates the Gentleman (stage-direction *Enter Queene and Horatio*), and gives his speeches to Horatio and Horatio's prudent advice to the Queen—a palpable mis-

understanding of Shakespeare's intention, but one which was followed by various eighteenth and nineteenth century editors. Finally one change for simplicity and directness of action may be noted. Immediately after the closet scene (3. 3) Q. reads *Enter King, and Queene, with Rosencrans and Gwyldensterne*.¹ It should be remembered that, although all editors since Rowe begin the fourth act here, there is neither act nor scene division in the original texts; the interview between the royal couple was meant to follow directly after Hamlet's departure from his mother's closet. Shakespeare, it seems, intended to introduce the King, accompanied by the courtiers who had been talking with Hamlet before the closet scene and had gone from him to the King. He realized at once, however, that the interview between the King and Queen should be in private and so wrote for her a speech of dismissal to the courtiers: *Bestow this place on us a little while*, which should, of course, be followed in Q.₂, as it is not, by a stage-direction, *Exeunt Rosencrans and Guildenstern*. When the play was being prepared for presentation it seemed quite unnecessary to bring two actors on the stage only to send them off again, and accordingly F. opens the scene with *Enter King* and deletes Gertrude's dismissal of the courtiers. Other instances could be quoted but enough has been said to show the theatrical nature of the manuscript on which the F. text depends.

The same is true of the stage-directions in the Folio.⁴ Though not as complete as they should be—such an omission as the necessary *Leaps into the grave* after Hamlet's speech (5. 1. 281) is probably due to a negligent copyist—they are far fuller and more explicit than those of Q.₂. For the Q. *cum aliis* at the opening of 2, 1 it substitutes *Lords Attendant*, for *Enter the Players* (2. 2. 439) it reads *Enter foure or five Players*, and for *Enter a Courtier* (5. 2. 81) it reads *Enter young Osricke*, deriving the name from a later reference to this character by name in the text (5. 2. 270). This is one of the numerous additions to the stage-directions in the F. text that show them to be derived directly from the text. Thus when Q.₂ has only *Enter Hamlet* (2. 2. 167) F. reads *Enter Hamlet reading on a Booke*,

¹ For the puzzling entrance of the Queen see note *ad. loc.*, p. 181, below.

the last phrase deriving from the Queen's speech immediately following this entry.

Look where sadly the poor wretch comes reading.

Compare also Q.₂ *Enter Ophelia* with F. *Enter Ophelia distracted* (4. 5. 20). And finally certain changes in the stage-directions point to a change in stage-presentation after the accession of James in 1603. Thus at the entrance of the Court for the play-scene (3. 2. 94) Q.₂ calls only for *Trumpets and Kettle Drummes* whereas F. specifies *Danish March*, an extra flourish in honor of the Danish wife of James. A later alteration (5. 2. 235) points to a change in fencing fashions between the date of composition and the preparation of the "copy" for F. Here Q.₂ has *Foiles, daggers*, thus calling for the old-fashioned fencing with sword and dagger (cf. 5. 2. 151-2. *What's his weapon? Rapier and dagger*); F., on the other hand, has *Foyles, and Gauntlets*, showing that sometime early in the seventeenth century the new style which dropped the dagger and covered the left hand with a leather gauntlet was transferred from the fencing schools to Shakespeare's stage. We need, perhaps, to remember that Elizabethan playgoers took swordplay on the stage very seriously; they would not have been content to see such champions as Hamlet and Laertes indulging in old-fashioned, if not obsolete, practice.²

Such changes as these last forbid us to believe that the "copy" for F. was an exact transcript of the original prompt-book, or rather of the manuscript from which that "book" was prepared. But there are other and more convincing reasons.

The traditional procedure of editing *Hamlet*, that of using F. as a basis and correcting where necessary by collation with Q.₂, has obscured the faulty character of the F. text, "one of the most corrupt," says Wilson, "of the whole Shakespearean corpus." Now the corruptions of F. are not the corrigible errors of a compositor like the majority of those in Q.₂. They exhibit, on the contrary, various categories of alterations of the original text, some unconscious or accidental, others deliberate changes for the sake of clarification, modernization, reproduction of an actor's delivery, and so on. Some-

² For an elaborate discussion of this matter see Wilson's preface to the reprint of Silver's *Paradoxes of Defence*, Shakespeare Association Facsimiles, No. 6.

times an evident misunderstanding of the original has led to an alteration of the text. Such changes are not to be attributed to the compositor in Jaggard's office. It is to be presumed that the "copy" sent him by Heminges and Condell was clean and fairly legible, and McKerrow has shown that an Elizabethan compositor was quite capable of setting up a correct reproduction of good "copy." They are rather to be attributed to the scribe, who made the transcript that went to the printer. Let us examine some of these deviations from the original.

We have in the first place a certain number of small additions, repetitions of words and phrases which may be attributed to the actors and which passed into the F. text from the scribe's memory of the play as acted. Wilson (*op. cit.*, p. 349) lists some twenty-four of these. About half of them appear in Hamlet's part and are due to Burbadge's desire to intensify his rendition. Such, for example, are the repetition of *my tables* (1. 5. 107) or the inserted *these* before *fardels* (3. 1. 76) both of which destroy the meter. Most startling of all is the four times repeated *O* after Hamlet's last words, *the rest is silence*; Burbadge-Hamlet it seems was not content to die in silence, but preferred to expire in an agony of groans. But such additions are found in other rôles than *Hamlet's*. Polonius adds an unnecessary *Daughter* to the line (1. 3. 120) and the Clown repeats the phrase *this same scull sir* (5. 1. 198). The Clown's reference to Vaughan's tavern (5. 1. 67-8) is plainly an actor's gag which has crept into the text. There has been also a certain rather perfunctory purging of the original text to avoid the penalty prescribed by the Act of 1606 for profanity on the stage. It seems not unlikely that while the prompt-book was carefully purged, the scribe of the final copy repeatedly preferred his memory of what he had heard, since the actors were probably not so careful as the maker of the prompt-book to avoid profanity. Otherwise it is hard to account for the fact that in one and the same speech—Hamlet's first soliloquy—the scribe alters *O God* to *O Heaven* (1. 2. 150), but a few lines before (1. 2. 132) he retains the original *Q God God*, with the insertion of an unmetrical *O* before the second *God*. Perhaps the most striking of his alterations is the change of Hamlet's impassioned appeal, *O God Horatio*, to the flat and toneless *O good Horatio* (5. 2. 355), a change which, strange to say, has been followed by many editors.

The verbal changes in F. from the Q. text amount in Wilson's reckoning (*op. cit.*, p. 349) to 219. Some of these are of slight significance; but others show a conscious effort on the part of the scribe to modernize and clarify the text. Thus for Shakespeare's archaic *hath* (1. 1. 17 and 1. 5. 130) he writes *has*; he seems to have a prejudice against the demonstrative pronouns *this* and *that* and frequently, though not consistently, alters them to the definite article (*this dreame to the dreame*, 1. 2. 21, *those friends to the friends*, 1. 3. 62, and so on). He modernizes *jump* to *just* (1. 1. 65), *sith* to *since* (2. 2. 6); *prescripts* to *Precepts* (2. 2. 142), and *virgin Crants* to *Virgin Rites* (5. 1. 255). Most of these are unimportant, but we get occasional changes which quite alter the meaning. Thus *flushing in* becomes *flushing of* (1. 2. 155, see note *ad. loc.*); *therewith . . . make* becomes *there with . . . come* (4. 7. 169); the alteration of *ore-reaches* to *o're offices* (5. 1. 87) not only alters but destroys the sense. Occasionally we get changes which seem due to the scribe's hasty paraphrase of his copy such as *one auspicious and one dropping eye* for *an auspicious and a dropping* (1. 2. 11) or *my sweet Queene that*, for *my dear Gertrard* (2. 2. 54) and *Away thy hand* for *hold off thy hand* (5. 1. 286). Finally we get instances of anticipation due to the scribe's eye running ahead of his pen and prompting him to write down a word that really comes later. Such for example is the F. *day* (Q. *morne*) due to *God of day* two lines later (1. 1. 150), and *One cheefe Speech* (2. 2. 467) where the intrusive adjective is plainly due to *chiefly*, a few words later in both texts. It may be remarked that such anticipations are much more common in the work of a scribe than in that of a compositor who tends as a rule rather to repeat than to anticipate.

Are any of the alterations in F. to be ascribed to the revising hand of the author himself? Greg (*Principles of Emendation*, 1928) once suggested that in some twenty-three cases the F. reading is so clearly superior to that of Q. as to imply Shakespeare's correction of his "first shots." It is interesting to note, and a proof of Dr. Greg's open-mindedness, that in his review of Wilson's work (*M. L. R.*, January 1935) he withdraws this suggestion and decides that since the "graphic outline" of the variants is always the same, we have to do here not with Shakespeare's revisions but with printer's errors or editorial

emendations. It seems a wise conclusion for, once admit the possibility of Shakespeare's revision of his first thoughts appearing in F., the door is opened to the widest and wildest editorial eclecticism, which may at any moment adopt the later rather than the earlier version on the alleged ground that what seems to the editor the better word must be due to the author himself. Moreover, if Shakespeare had the chance and availed himself of it to revise the text of the manuscript on which F. rests, the question arises why he did not correct the many errors in which this text abounds. The few cases where the F. text is in reality to be preferred, apart from mere corrections of Q. misprints, will be discussed in the notes. The general conclusion of the present editors may be stated here as being that in every case the improvement is due to a misreading of Shakespeare's hand by the compositor of Q., occasionally followed, as in 5. 1. 321 (*thirtie, thereby*), by a wrong guess by the Q. proof-corrector, and that the better reading of F. is due to a correct transcription of the original manuscript.

Finally, the punctuation of F. differs at almost every possible point from that of Q. As has been said above the punctuation of Q. is light, insufficient according to modern notions, but plainly indicating a swift and rhythmical delivery. That of F. Wilson (*op. cit.*, p. 194) describes as the worst he has encountered in any Shakespearean text. It is far heavier than that of Q. and probably represents a change from a more or less conversational to a declamatory delivery, a change which has been intensified and corrupted in the process of twofold transcription, plus the possible alterations introduced by Jaggard's printer. Again and again the punctuation of F. is so plainly wrong that it can only be due to a misunderstanding of the text. A striking example, one of many, is the following *With thoughts beyond thee; reaches of our soules* (1. 4. 56). Evidently the scribe carelessly wrote *thee* for *the*, omitting any punctuation after it, and a printer or proof-corrector in Jaggard's shop inserted the semicolon in a vain effort to make some sense of the passage. One need not share Wilson's perhaps extravagant admiration of the Q. punctuation to agree with him that it is on the whole preferable to that of F. and further that the punctuation of F. in many cases does not and cannot represent the actor's delivery but is a contamination and degradation of such

delivery by the joint efforts of scribe, compositor, and corrector. In the present edition the punctuation of Q.₂ is preserved throughout, except where a printer's error plainly destroys the sense, and in all such cases attention is directed to the change in a note.

What is the conclusion of the whole matter? From what has been said above it would seem that we might reasonably propose the following hypothesis as an explanation of the peculiarities of the F. text. When Shakespeare first handed over his draft, the "foul papers" of *Hamlet*, to the company, a transcript was at once made of it to serve as a basis for the prompt-book. This transcript was an abbreviated copy of Shakespeare's manuscript, presumably in a clearer hand with better, i.e. more modern, spellings, more definite stage-directions and so on. Before the prompt-book to be submitted to the licenser was prepared, this first transcript was rechecked, heavier cuts for theatrical purposes indicated in it, further stage-directions inserted; possible alterations, suggested by the players, made in the text; in fact, it was so marked up that while an intelligent theatrical scribe could prepare a usable prompt-book from it, it was not in condition to send as "copy" to a printer.³ Therefore when Heminges and Condell were called on to furnish Jaggard with "copy" for the *Hamlet* of the Folio, they probably decided to have a clean copy of this original transcript made. Into this second transcript there crept by the carelessness or presumption of the scribe many of the changes and errors which have been noted as characteristic of the F. text. Heminges and Condell have sometimes been blamed for their ignorance or carelessness in the matter of furnishing "copy" for the Folio. In the case of *Hamlet*, at least, we ought rather to thank them, for they evidently took pains to furnish Jaggard with what seemed to them the best and fullest text possible rather than a mere transcript of the acting version, i.e. the prompt-book. By doing so they preserved for us two long characteristic passages of Hamlet's dialogue (2. 2. 244-76 and 2. 2. 352-79) which had been apparently cancelled in the "copy" sent to Roberts in 1604, besides numerous minor omissions due to the haste or ignorance of the compositor of Q.₂. Moreover Jaggard's

³ It is not necessary to believe, however, that these changes were all made at one time and are not, some of them at least, the results of alterations made when the play was revived at various times before its publication in 1623.

printer, presumably a more skilful workman than the compositor employed by Roberts, did a much better printing job. Between the scribe and the printer we get in F. a text that provides very great, if not always sufficient, means for the correction of the first attempt to give "the true and perfect copy" of Shakespeare's masterpiece to the world of readers.

The duty of a modern editor, then, a duty not fully realized until Wilson's epoch-making work on the text of *Hamlet*, is to follow Q.₂ wherever possible since it rests directly upon Shakespeare's manuscript, whereas the F. text rests upon a transcript of a transcript of that manuscript, abbreviated, altered, and disfigured by theatrical necessity and a scribe's caprice. It is hoped that the present edition, which attempts to restore the text of *Hamlet* as Shakespeare wrote it, will serve as a better basis for modern editions than anything that has yet appeared. Certainly it offers the intelligent reader a better idea of what Shakespeare wrote than the badly printed Q.₂ with its errors, misunderstandings, and omissions.

T H E
Tragicall Historie of
H A M L E T,
Prince of Denmarke.

By William Shakespeare.

- Newly imprinted and enlarged to almost as much againe as it was, according to the true and perfect Coppie.



AT LONDON,
Printed by I. R. for N. L. and are to be sold at his
shoppe vnder Saint Dunstons Church in
Fleetstreet. 1604.

TEXTUAL NOTES

All line numbers are those of the Globe edition. Words and phrases of text repeated in notes are printed in bold face.

Throughout these notes Q. will be used as the symbol of the Second Quarto; Qq. for an agreement of the First and Second Quartos, and F. for the First Folio. Quartos other than the Second are designated by a subscript numeral.

There is no division into acts and scenes in Q. This is in accordance with Shakespeare's practice; no play of his printed direct from his manuscript, or from a transcript of his manuscript, during his lifetime is divided into acts and scenes. Presumably he thought of a play as a continuous action, broken, no doubt, at certain convenient intervals for the sake of the audience, but not divided into the regulation five acts with their included scenes of classical drama.

The division of *Hamlet* into acts and scenes was begun in F. which starts regularly enough with *Actus primus, scena prima*, but breaks off after *Actus secundus, scena secunda*; see *Introduction*, p. 25.

The present received and quite unsatisfactory act and scene division is the work of Shakespeare's first editor, Nicholas Rowe.

The Tragedie of
HAMLET
Prince of Denmarke.

Globe
 I. i.

Enter Barnardo, and Francisco, two Centinels.

Bar. **VV** Hefe there?

Fran. Nay anfwere me. Stand and vnfolde your felfe.

Bar. Long liue the King.

Fran. *Barnardo.*

Bar. Hee.

✓ Fran. You come moft carefully vpon your houre.

Bar. Tis now ftrooke twelfe, get thee to bed *Francisco*,

Fran. For this reliefe much thanks, tis bitter cold,

And I am fick at hart.

10 Bar. Haue you had quiet guard?

Fran. Not a moufe ftirring.

Bar. Well, good night:

If you doe meete *Horatio* and *Marcellus*,
 The riuals of my watch, bid them make haft.

Enter Horatio, and Marcellus.

Fran. I thinke I heare them, ftand ho, who is there?

Hora. Friends to this ground.

Mar. And Leedgemen to the Dane,

Fran. Giue you good night.

Act I, scene 1

s.d. The usual s.d., a platform before the castle, comes from Theobald. Neither Q. nor F. has any indication of place. Wilson, Cambridge *Hamlet*, p. 143, thinks this scene was acted on the upper stage, but that would be rather crowded with the three or four characters who appear in the scene to say nothing of the pacing to and fro of the Ghost. It is better to place it on the front stage with the Ghost entering and leaving by side doors.

* **Barnardo.** This spelling of both Q. and F., modernized by editors to *Bernardo*, is retained as showing Shakespeare's pronunciation of the name. Only in 1.2.159 (Q.) does the spelling *Bernardo* appear, where it is probably due to a scribal -er often used for words in -ar.

1 Q. whose F. who's the first of many modernizations in F. aving

3 Here and elsewhere is retained the light punctuation of Q. in w substitute comma often stands for a full stop.

The Tragedie of Hamlet Prince of Denmarke

Mar. O, farwell honest fouldier, who hath relieu'd you?
Fran. *Barnardo* hath my place; giue you good night. *Exit Fran.*

Mar. Holla, *Barnardo*.

Bar. Say, what is *Horatio* there?

Hora. A peece of him.

20 *Bar.* Welcome *Horatio*, welcome good *Marcellus*,

Hora. What, ha's this thing appeard againe to night?

Bar. I haue feene nothing.

Mar. *Horatio* saies tis but our fantasie,
 And will not let beliefe take holde of him,
 Touching this dreaded fight twice feene of vs,
 Therefore I haue intreated him along
 With vs to watch the minuts of this night,
 That if againe this apparifion come,
 He may approoue our eyes and speake to it.

30 *Hora.* Tush, tush, twill not appeare.

Bar. Sit downe a while,

And let vs once againe assaile your eares,

certa That are so fortified against our story.

regula What we haue two nights feene.

The *Hora.* Well, fit we downe,

larly enc and let vs heare *Barnardo* speake of this.

scena sec

The *pre* *Bar.* Last night of all,

of *Shakes* yond fame starre thats weastward from the pole,

ne sense requires the F. Soldier for Q. *fouldiers*. An unnecessary s
 appended to a verb or noun is common in Elizabethan printing, probably due
 to the printer mistaking a flourish on the final r for an s. See examples of
 these letters in Kellner, *Restoring Shakespeare*, pp. 206-8.

7 F. *ha's*, a not uncommon Elizabethan form, approaching the modern *has*.
 In l. 21 below, both texts read *ha's*.

21 Q. and F. both assign this line to *Marcellus* and have been followed by
 many editors, including Cambridge, Globe, Neilson, and Adams. Greg and
 Wilson prefer the Q. assignment. The fact that it belongs to *Marcellus* in
 Q. shows that it was in his part in an early performance, and was assigned
 to the actor of that part in the manuscript on which F. is based. But Q. no
 doubt, represents Shakespeare's original intention; the slighting reference
 to "this thing" is appropriate to the sceptical *Horatio*; the frightened *Mar-*
cellus would be more respectful of what he calls "this dreaded sight."

26 The comma after *along* in Q. is a printer's error. F., supported by Q.,
 gives the correct reading since *along* must be construed with the following
 phrase, *with us*.

Q., supported by Q., reads *have two nights*; F. *two nights have*. This
 variant may be due to an editorial change for euphony, or ease of pronuncia-
 on. There are a number of such cases in F. Or it may be due, as Greg thinks,
 only to careless work by the compositor of F.

Hora. In what perticular thought to worke I know not,
But in the groffe and scope of mine opinion,
This bodes some strange eruption to our fstate.

40 *Mar.* Good now fit downe, and tell me he that knowes,
Why this fame ftrikt and moft obferuant watch
Nightly toiles the fubiect of the land,

Mar. why fuch dayly caft of brazon Cannon
Be forraine marte for implements of warre,
Hora. ch imprefse of fhip-writes, whose fore tafke

Bar. decide the Sunday from the weeke,

Mar. & be toward that this fweaty haft

✓ *Hora.* When art thou labourer with the day,

Together with that faire mewe

In which the Maieftie of buried

Did fometimes march, by heauen laft large th

50. *Mar.* It is offended.

Bar. See it itaukes away.

Hora. Stay, fpeake, fpeake, I charge thee fpeak ✓

Mar. Tis gone and will not anfwere. S 112

- 39 Kellner (*Restoring Shakespeare*, p. 42) objects to the **beating** F. and prefers the Q. *towling*. Probably *towling* was substituted in by the actor of Marcellus for the less familiar *beating*. N.E.D. lists under *Beat* 33; under *7* it gives a sense "said of the impact of sounds" — cites 2 K.H.IV, 1.3.92, where the applause of the many is said to "than heaven with blessing." The citation under 31 from Rossetti "high do the be a of Rouen beat" has no evidential value in this case, since Rossetti no doubt borrowed the familiar Shakespearean phrase.

40 Q.; F. of, a common Elizabethan spelling for *off*.

- 43 Q. a; F. *it*. Q. *a* is a colloquial form of *he*, which occurs, according to Wilson, 37 times in Q. Here perhaps it carries a suggestion of hasty utterance due to Barnardo's excitement. As early as the preparation of copy for F. there was a tendency to alter this form to *he* (only in 5.1.197 does F. print *a* for *he*) or, as here, to *it*. Hereafter *a* for *he* will be retained without further comment.

- 44 Q. *horrowes*; F. correctly *harrowes*. Q. shows the common misreading of *a* as *o*. The Q. *horrors* suggests that the scribe who prepared the misprint which Q. rests misread Shakespeare's *harrowes* as *horrowes* and "corrected" it to what he thought was intended, i.e. *horrors*. On the other hand since the sounds of short *o* and short *a* were very similar the reading of Q. may be due to an auditory error by the reporter followed by a "mis-correction."

- 45 Q. *Speake to*; Q. *1*, F. *Question*. The agreement here of Q. and F. shows that *Question* was the word spoken on Shakespeare's stage. It was probably the word that he wrote; no actor or editor would be likely to change the natural phrase "*Speake to*" into *Question*, whereas the printer of Q. having *spoke to*, just above, in his mind might very well unconsciously substitute *Speake to* for the *Question* of his copy.

The Tragedie of Hamlet Prince of Denmarke

Mar. O, farwell honest fouldier, who hath relieu'd you?

Fran. Barnardo hath my place; giue you good night. *Exit F.*

Mar. Holla, Barnardo.

Bar. Say, what is Horatio there?

Hora. A peece of him.

20 Bar. Welcome Horatio, welcome good Marcellus,

Hora. What, ha's this thing appeard againe to night?

Bar. I haue feene nothing.

Mar. Horatio faies tis but our fantasie,

And will not let beliefe take holde of him,

Touching this dreaded fight twice feene of vs,

Therefore I haue intreated him along

With vs to watch the minut

That if againe this appariti

He may appr

30 Hora.

Bar.

And let
certaine That
regula Wh
The
larly enc
scena s
Th
of S

mi?; Q., F. you on't? The Q. reading may represent a printer's compositor of Q. seems to have been very careless in his use of strophe, and he may here have substituted a hyphen between *you* and *or* the apostrophe in the latter word. The F. reading is preferable. The omits *he* and reads *th' Ambitions*. Perhaps an awkward attempt to larly enc, malize the meter.

Qq. *sleaded pollax*; F. *sledded Pollax*. There has been much throwing about of brains over this passage. The notes in the Furness *Variorum* cover the better part of two pages. The F. reading adopted here, with the change of *x* into *cks*, gives the sense of what Shakespeare intended, i.e. that the dead King once smote, i.e. defeated, the Poles (Shakespeare called them *Pollacks*, cf. *Ham.* 2.2.75 and 4.4.23) who ride in sleds in a battle fought upon a frozen lake or bay. To interpret, as some English and more German commentators do, the Q. *sleaded pollax* as *sledged pole-ax*, or *halberd* is to violate English idiom. One does not smite a weapon on an object but smites the object with the weapon, cf. numerous instances of this usage in *N.E.D.* There is, however, one instance in Shakespeare's *Lucrece*, l. 176, which runs contrary to the common usage.

His falchion on a flint he softly smiteth.

The word *parle* in this passage has given some trouble, since commentators have assumed that it could not refer to a battle in which the King smote the Poles. But *parle* has the special meaning of a meeting of enemies to discuss terms of truce or peace, and an angry *parle* might well end in a battle as, according to Malory, the *parle* between Arthur and Modred ended in the "last great battle in the West."

Wilson suggests that the minuscule *p* in the Qq. is due to the fact that the secretary capital was so elaborate (cf. Kellner, p. 205) that an author writing hastily often used a minuscule instead.

65 The F. *just* for *jump* of both Qq. in this line represents the tendency toward modernization in the F. text.

Hora. In what perticular thought to worke I know not,
But in the groffe and fcope of mine opinion,
This bodes fome ftrange eruption to our ftate.

- 70 *Mar.* Good now fit downe, and tell me he that knowes,
Why this fame ftrikt and moft obferuant watch
So nightly toiles the fubiect of the land,
And why fuch dayly caft of brazon Cannon
And forraine marte for implements of warre,
Why fuch imprefse of fhip-writes, whofe fore taske
Does not deuide the Sunday from the weeke,
What might be toward that this fweaty haft
Doth make the night ioynt labourer with the day,
Who ift that can informe mee?

~~*Hora.* That can I.~~

- 80 At leaft the whifper goes fo; our laft King,
Whofe image euen but now appear'd to vs,
Was as you knowe by *Fortinbraffe* of *Norway*,
Thereto prickt on by a moft emulate pride
Dar'd to the combat; in which our valiant *Hamlet*,
(For fo this fide of our knowne world efteemd him)
Did flay this *Fortinbraffe*, who by a feald compact
Well ratified by lawe and heraldy
Did forfait (with his life) all thofe his lands

67 The comma after *thought* in Q. is a printer's error. Greg, "An Elizabethan Printer and His Copy," *Library*, Vol. IV, p. 115, points out a case where a usually careful Elizabethan printer inserted a comma where none appeared in the ms. or was wanted by the sense. A similar superfluous comma appears after *marte*, l. 74.

68 The F.Q. *my* for Q. *mine* is a substitution of the more idiomatic for the literary form.

73 Q. *with* is a printer's misreading of *why* found in both Q. and F., an error due to a confusion of the forms in Elizabethan script of final *h* and final *y*. See Kellner, pp. 199 and 216.

Qq. *cost*, perhaps, suggested by *marte*, l. 74, is probably a misprint for *cast*, as in F. The agreement of Q. and Q. in this error may mean that here, as occasionally elsewhere (see below, pp. 80, 95), the compositor of Q. consulted a printed copy of Q. On the other hand it may be that the scribe of the copy for Q. made the same mistake of *o* for *a* as the compositor of Q.

Cast in the sense of *casting* is quite unusual and a misunderstanding may have caused this agreement in error between Q. and Q.

82 F. spells the name *Fortinbras*; Q. varies between *-in* and *-en*. The form *Fortinbraffe* is retained throughout in this edition.

87 Q. F. reads *heraldrie*—F. with a capital *H*. The older form of Q. *heraldy* occurs as late as the mid-eighteenth century and should be retained.

88 Q. *these* shows the rather common misprint of *e* for *o*. Q. agrees with F. in the correct *those*.

- Which he stood feaz'd of, to the conquerour.
 90 Against the which a moitie competent
 Was gaged by our King, which had return'd
 To the inheritance of *Fortinbrasse*,
 Had he bin vanquisher; as by the fame comart,
 And carriage of the article desseign'd,
 His fell to Hamlet; now Sir, young *Fortinbrasse*
 Of vnimprooued mettle, hot and full,
 Hath in the skirts of *Norway* heere and there
 Sharkt vp a lift of laweleffe resolute
 For foode and diet to some enterprife
 100 That hath a stomacke in't, which is no other
 As it doth well appeare vnto our state
 But to recouer of vs by strong hand
 And tearmes compulsory, those foresaid lands
 So by his father lost; and this I take it,
 Is the maine motiue of our preparations
 The source of this our watch, and the chiefe head
 Of this post haft and Romadge in the land

- 89 Q. here supports Q. in reading of as against F. *on*, an alteration perhaps due to a concession to legal usage.
 91 Q. *returue* shows the common misprint of final *d* as *e*; cf. ll. 94, 121, and elsewhere. F. correctly, *return'd*.
 93 N.E.D. gives no other instance of *comart* in the language. The F. *Cow'nant* (covenant) has been adopted by most editors and Wilson formerly explained *comart* as a minim error. In his Cambridge *Hamlet*, however, he retains *comart*. Since *covenant* means the same as *the article design'd*, l. 94, it is tautologous, and it seems better to suppose that Shakespeare coined the word on the basis of *marie*, l. 74, meaning a joint bargain, and that a scribe changed it to the more familiar *cou'nant*.
 94 Q. *desseigne*; F. *designe* both show the misreading of final *d* as *e*; cf. l. 91. Read *deffelgnd*.
 98 The F. *landlesse*, though accepted by many editors, is certainly wrong. It may be due to a minim error combined with a misreading of medial *e* as *d*. Possibly the scribe of the copy for F. substituted this word for Q. *laweleffe* because of the reference to the loss of land referred to in the context. The word *landless* occurs only once elsewhere in Shakespeare (K.J. 1.1.177) where it is used to point a contrast between a *landless* knight and a *landed* squire.
 101 F. reads *And* for Q. *As*, a careless substitution, and puts the line in brackets.
 103 The F. *compulsative* may be due to the scribe's desire to normalize the meter. N.E.D. gives no other instance of *compulsative*.
 107 Four of the six extant copies of Q. (Hunt, Folger, H. Club, and T.C.C.) read *Romadge*; the B.M. and Grimston copies read *Romeage*. This is the first of eighteen variants in the 1604-1605 edition. The form *Romeage* is probably due to an attempted correction to *Romage* as in F.

Bar. I thinke it be no other, but e'en fo;
Well may it fort that this portentous figure
110 Comes armed through our watch so like the King
That was and is the queſtion of theſe warres.

Hora. A moth it is to trouble the mindes eye:
In the moſt high and palmy ſtate of Rome,
A little ere the mightieſt *Iulius* fell
The graues ſtood tenantleſſe, and the ſheeted dead
Did ſqueake and gibber in the Roman ſtreets

* * * * *

As ſtarres with traines of fier, and dewes of blood

108-125 These lines are omitted in F., as in Q.₁, the first of many cuts in that text. It is interesting to note that cuts often occur where there is a crux in the text as here in l. 117. See also below 1.4.17-38. Neither Horatio's speech here nor Hamlet's in scene 4. advances the action, and it seems likely that they were deliberately struck out when the transcript for the prompt-book was being made.

The idea that such passages are additions made by Shakespeare to a version of *Hamlet* meant for the reader rather than for the stage has been advanced, but seems unacceptable—see *Introduction*, p. 44.

108 Q. *enfo* may represent Shakespeare's spelling of *e'en so*, or it may be a printer's error.

112 Q. *moth* is an old spelling of *mote* introduced into the text by Q.₅, 1637, and followed by all modern editors. The page in *L.L.L.* is called *Moth* because of his diminutive size, not because of his likeness to a butterfly.

115 Q. *tennatleſſe*, corrected to *tenantleſſe* in Q.₄ (after 1611), is probably due to a printer's transposition of letters.

117-21 It has long been recognized that there is something wrong with this passage. The lines 117-20 cannot be construed with what immediately precedes. Wilson proposes and prints a radical correction. He removes the four lines in question from *As ſtarres to eclipe* from their present position and prints them at the end of the speech, suggesting that because of crowding in Shakespeare's ms. they were written in the margin at right angles to the verse column. This is a possibility, but even if it were a known fact, it is hard to see why the printer should have inserted them in the "verse column" instead of printing them where, on Wilson's theory, they belong, i.e. at the end of the speech. Wilson asserts that the rearrangement makes perfect sense. It does so grammatically, but it involves a distinct break in the logical order of the speech. Horatio begins by recounting terrestrial phenomena that foreran the death of Caesar: empty graves and ghosts in the streets; he goes on to speak of celestial phenomena: *ſtarres with traines of fire, dewes of blood, diſaſters in the ſunne* (i.e. an eclipse), and an eclipse of the *moist ſtarre* (the moon). Certainly the past tense *was*, l. 120, and the semicolon after *ſunne* which

Difasters in the funne; and the moift starre,
 Vpon whose influence *Neptunes* Empier ftands,
 120 Was ficke almoft to doomefday with eclipfe.
 And euen the like precurse of feard euent
 As harbindgers preceeding ftill the fates
 And prologue to the *Omen* comming on
 Hauē heauen and earth together demonftrated
 Vnto our Climatures and countrymen.

Enter Ghof.

But foft, behold, loe where it comes againe,

separates the clause *and the moist starre, etc.*, from what precedes it, go to show that the lunar eclipse in question was imagined by Shakespeare as taking place in Caesar's time. But Wilson's arrangement makes these celestial phenomena occur in the *climature* of Denmark, immediately before the appearance of the Ghost, since in his arrangement they stand in apposition to the phrase, the *like precurse of feard events*. There is no trace of these celestial phenomena in other versions of the Hamlet story. Shakespeare, as the context shows, derived them from Plutarch's *Julius Caesar* ("fires in the elements, . . . a great comet . . . the brightness of the sun was darkened") which he had been studying closely just before he began his work on *Hamlet*. It is interesting also to note that eclipses of both sun and moon were visible in England in 1598 and 1600.

On the whole it seems safer not to alter the arrangement of the text and to assume that here as elsewhere (5.2.57 for example) the Q. printer has carelessly omitted a line from his copy. Wilson notes some twenty-five lines or half lines that he has so omitted, most of which, fortunately, can be supplied from F. Unfortunately this is impossible here as the whole passage is wanting in F.

Various suggestions for the omitted line may be found in Furness, but as they are all sheer guesses, it seems best to indicate an omission in the text by asterisks.

121 Q. *fearē*. Collier's conjecture *feard* seems quite acceptable since it involves only the misreading, common enough in Elizabethan times, of final *d* as *e*—cf. ll. 91 and 94 above. Editors follow the reading of Q. *fearce*, but that edition has no textual authority. It is true that the spelling *fearce* occurs in Elizabethan English; *N.E.D.* gives an example dated 1583 and Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 107) infers a Shakespearean spelling *fearce*. Shakespeare, however, seems to have spelled this word *fierce* as we do, see *R. and J.*, Q. 5.3.38, *Cor.*, 1.4.57, *A. and C.*, 1.5.17, and *Cym.*, 5.5.382, all cases where the printed text presumably rests upon a Shakespearean autograph. And finally *feared events* seems to give a better sense than *fearce*; these events portended by omens are events to be anticipated with fear.

127 Q. has no punctuation after *againē*; F. has a colon. The comma of Q. 1 is most likely to show Shakespeare's intention.

- Ile crosse it though it blaft mee: stay illufion,
 If thou haft any found or vfe of voyce,
 130 ~~Speake to me,~~ *It fpreads his armes.*
 If ~~there be any good thing to be done~~
 That may to thee doe eafe, and grace to mee,
 Speake to me.
 If thou art priuie to thy countries fate
 Which happily foreknowing may auoyd
 O fpeake:
 Or if thou haft vphoorded in thy life
 Extorted treasure in the wombe of earth
 For which they lay you fpirits oft walke in death,
 Speake of it, stay and fpeake, ~~ftop it Marcellus.~~ *The cocke crowes.*
 140 ~~Mar.~~ Shall I ftrike at it with my partizan?

128. The interesting s.d. of Q. omitted by Q. F. and by most editors is retained here. Wilson alters It to *He* since he believes "the reference is clearly to Horatio's action of 'crossing' by spreading out his arms in the form of a cross." But why should Shakespeare (if the s.d. goes back to his ms.) or a prompter (if it was added later) write It as a direction to the actor playing Horatio? It is more likely that the s.d. indicates a gesture by the Ghost. In the *Bestrafte Brudermord* the Ghost first frightens the sentinel, perhaps by some threatening gesture, and later boxes his ears; this "business" probably goes back, in part at least, to the *Ur-Hamlet*. At any rate it seems improper to alter the plain direction of Q. to make it correspond with a hypothetical bit of "business."

130 Both Q. and F. print **Speake to me . . . done** as one line; but the first three words are a short line like 133 and 136 below.

138 Editors follow F. **you**, here. Wilson in the Cranach *Hamlet* printed *your* as in Q. and remarked that it gave "a little characteristic touch to Horatio." In his Cambridge *Hamlet* he reverts to **you** and notes (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 282) that such a colloquialism would be much out of place in Horatio's mouth. The appearance of **you** in Q. shows that this form rather than Q. *your* originally stood in Horatio's part. The sense, as well as the agreement of F. and Q., seems to demand **you**, and *your* may be explained as the printer's error caused by mistaking a flourish on the final *u* for another letter which he would naturally take to be an *r*.

Q. has a full stop after **death**. In Elizabethan printing a period often appears where we should set a comma. F. puts the whole line in parenthesis. The comma of Q. probably represents Shakespeare's intention.

140 Both Q. and F. give this line, wanting in Q., to Marcellus. Wilson in the Cranach *Hamlet* assigned it to Barnardo on somewhat fanciful grounds; in the Cambridge edition he reverts to the accepted text.

The word **at** in this line is supplied from F. It seems probable that its omission in Q. is due to the compositor, who, according to Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 248), dropped at least fifty-four necessary words. The restoration of **at** completes the line metrically and seems to give the sense of a menaced rather than an actual blow. F. misprints *ir* for Q. *it*.

Hor. Doe if it will not stand.

Bar. Tis heere.

Hor. Tis heere.

Mar. Tis gone.

We doe it wrong being so Maiefticall
To offer it the shewe of violence,
For it is as the ayre, invulnerable,
And our vaine blowes malicious mockery.

Bar. It was about to speake when the cock crewe.

- Hor. And then it started like a guilty thing,
Vpon a fearefull summons; I haue heard,
150 The Cock that is the trumpet to the morne,
Doth with his lottty and thrill fouding throat
Awake the God of day, and at his warning
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or ayre
Th'extrauagant and erring spirit hies
To his confine, and of the truth heerein
This present object made probation.
Mar. It faded on the crowing of the Cock.
Some fay that euer gainst that season comes
Wherein our Sauours birth is celebrated
160 This bird of dawning fingeth all night long,
And then they fay no spirit dare sturre abraode

148 Q. and F. agree on **started**. The Q. *faded* is probably an actor's alteration due to his feeling that a ghost should *fade* away.

150 The F. *day* is probably a scribe's anticipation, caused by **God of day**, l. 152.

158 The F. *sayes* is one of the many changes in verbal form that appear in that text.

160 F. *The Bird*, which is followed by most editors; but the demonstrative **this** of Q. is distinctly better as it connects the bird in question with the cock of the context; an indefinite, *the bird*, might possibly refer to the lark, as indeed a recent commentator (Wilson Knight, *The Shakesperian Tempest*, p. 305) suggests.

161 F. *can walke* gains some support from Q. *dare walke*; but we probably have to do here with one of the many arbitrary alterations introduced alike into the actor's part and into the "copy" for F.

The quaint spelling *abraode* of Q. results according to Wilson (*Essays and Studies, English Association*, Vol. X, p. 40) from the compositor's unlucky attempt to normalize a "regular Shakespearian spelling," *abrode*. There are, however, at least five instances in plays printed presumably from Shakespeare's ms. where the spelling *abroad* appears—*R. and J.* (Q.), 1.1.127 and 3.1.2; *Cym.*, 3.4.180 and 4.2.101; *Temp.*, 5.1.167. Probably we have to do here merely with a casual interchange of *do* and *oa* spellings for the long open *o*.

The nights are wholfome, then no plannets ftrike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charme
So hallowed, and fo gracious is that time.

Hora. So haue I heard and doe in part belieue it,
But looke the morne in ruffet mantle clad
Walkes ore the dewe of yon high Eastward hill,
Breake we our watch vp and by my aduife
Let vs impart what we haue feene to night
170 Vnto young Hamlet, for vpon my life
This spirit dumb to vs, will speake to him:
Doe you consent we shall acquaint him with it
As needfull in our loues, fitting our duty?

Mar. Lets doo't I pray, and I this morning knowe
Where we shall find him most conuenient. *Exeunt.*

i. ii. *Florish. Enter Claudius, King of Denmarke, Gertrud the
Queene, Counsailors, Polonius, and his Sonne Laertes,
Hamlet, Cum Alijs.*

Claud. Though yet of Hamlet our deare brothers death
The memorie be greene, and that it vs befitted

164 F. *hallow'd* probably represents the proper dissyllabic pronunciation. Shakespeare usually marks this by an apostrophe, but the Q. printer was very careless in his use of apostrophes.

F. *the time* is another instance of the F. scribe's avoidance of the demonstrative, cf. l. 160.

167 F. *Easterne*, followed by many editors, is an example of the scribe's tendency to follow conventional usage, *eastern* the adjective, rather than *eastward* the adverb. The comma after *hill* is supplied from F.

173 Q. has a period after *duty*; the question mark is supplied from F.

175 Q. *conveniently* is followed by most editors. Shakespeare uses both *convenient* and *conveniently* as adverbs. Actor and scribe of F. have altered the shorter to the more customary form in *-ly*.

Act I, scene 2

s.d. Q. *Gertradi he Queene* shows the common error of *u* as *a* and a false placing of *t*. Hereafter the Queen's name will appear in this text as *Gertrud* (F. *Gertrude*) without further comment.

Q. *counsaile*: as *Polonius*. F. simply *Polonius*. The Q. reading is a misprint, possibly for *Counsailors, Polonius*. The *Counsailors* would be Cornelius and Valtemand who in the Q. text enter with the King, whereas in F., which drops the word along with *Cum Alijs* at the close of Q.s.d., they enter after l. 25.

Gollancz (*Century of Praise*, p. 173) suggests that the character of Corambis in the *Ur-Hamlet* was thought to be a satiric portrait of Burleigh, and that Shakespeare changed the name to avoid such identification and called him *Polonius*, a name, thinks Gollancz, possibly suggested by *The Counsellor*, a translation, 1598, of *De Optimo Senatore*, by Goslicius,

- To beare our harts in grieve, and our whole Kingdome
 To be contracted in one browe of woe,
 Yet so farre hath discretion fought with nature,
 That we with wisest sorrowe thinke on him
 Together with remembrance of our felues:
 Therefore our sometime Sister, now our Queene
 Th'imperiall ioyntresse to this warlike state
 10 Hauē we as twere with a defeated ioy
 With an aufpitious, and a dropping eye,
 With mirth in funerall, and with dirge in marriage,
 In equall scale waighing delight and dole
 Taken to wife: nor haue we heerein bard
 Your better wifdomes, which haue freely gone
 With this affaie along (for all our thankses).
 Now folloves that you knowe young *Fortinbrasse*,
 Holding a weake suppoall of our worth
 Or thinking by our late deare brothers death
 20 Our state to be difioynt, and out of frame
 Coleagued with this dreame of his aduantage.
 He hath not faild to pestur vs with meffage
 Importing the surrender of those lands

"a golden work consecrated to the honor of the Polonian Empire." Shakespeare's character, then, is the Counsellor par excellence, named Polonius, i.e. the Pole, after the author of the book. It is then, perhaps, possible that *Counsaile as Polonius* should be read *Counsaillor Polonius*.

The s.d. in F. brings in Hamlet, not in the rear as in Q., but just after the Queen, arranging the entry according to rank, whereas Q. shows that Shakespeare meant Hamlet to lag behind in sadness, dissociating himself so far as possible from the Court.

F. reading *and his sister, Ophelia*, introduces a silent and unnecessary figure in this scene.

- 3 Q. has an unnecessary comma after **Kingdome**. It was not unusual for an Elizabethan printer to place a comma at the end of a line even when it was not needed there. On the other hand Q. has no punctuation after **woe**, l. 4, where a comma is needed rather than the colon of F. Possibly the Q. printer has simply misplaced the comma.
- 9 F. *of* is the scribe's modernization of Q. *to*.
- 11 For Q. *an* and a F. reads *one* and *one*; *a* or *an* in the sense of *one* was becoming archaic in the seventeenth century and the F. scribe modernizes. The change seems to push the King's formal speech to the verge of the ridiculous, which can hardly have been Shakespeare's purpose.
- 16 Q. has no punctuation at the end of this line; presumably the printer regarded the parenthesis as a full stop. The period is supplied from F. which has no parenthesis.
- 21 F. *the dreame*; cf. note on l. l. 160.

- Loft by his father, with all bands of lawe
 To our most valiant brother, so much for him:
 Now for our selfe, and for this time of meeting,
 Thus much the busines is, we haue heere writ
 To *Norway* Vncle of young *Fortinbrasse*
 Who impotent and bedred scarcely heares
 30 Of this his Nephewes purpose; to suppress
 His further gate heerein, in that the leuies,
 The lifts, and full proportions are all made
 Out of his subiect, and we heere dispatch
 You good *Cornelius*, and you *Valtemand*,
 For bearers of this greeting to old *Norway*,
 Giuing to you no further personall power
 To busines with the King, more then the scope
 Of these delated articles allowe:
 Farwell, and let your haft commend your dutie.
 40 *Cor. Val.* In that, and all things will we shewe our dutie.
King. We doubt it nothing, hartely farwell.
 And now *Laertes* whats the newes with you? *Exit Valtemand*
 You told vs of some fute, what ist *Laertes*? *and Cornelius.*
 You cannot speake of reason to the Dane

- 24 Q. bands, F. Bonds. Shakespeare made little or no distinction between these originally interchangeable forms. F. represents modernization.
- 29 Q. bedred, a common Elizabethan spelling; the F. form, *Bedrid*, was coming into use in the seventeenth century.
- 34 The name of the second ambassador is spelled four different ways in the three texts: Q.₁ *Voltemar*; Q. *Valtemand*; F. *Voltemand* and *Voltumand*. Greg (*Emendation*, p. 70, and *Aspects*, p. 198) suggests that Q.₁ preserves a phonetic spelling of the northern name *Valdemar*. The Q. spelling is retained throughout this edition.
- 35 F. bearing, an arbitrary alteration, perhaps caused by the following greeting.
- 38 F. dilated, a variant spelling of Q. delated. Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 268) interprets as *accusing*. The usual interpretation is "carried," "conveyed."
- 40 Q. gives this line to *Cor. Vo.*, the last letter being a misprint for the *a* of *Valt's* name. F. gives the speech to *Volt.* alone; Q.₁ to *Gent.* showing that originally it was spoken by both actors. F. represents a change by the prompter; here as in 2.2 *Cornelius* is a mute.
- 41 Q. fails to note the exit of the ambassadors; it is supplied by F. whose s.d. are fuller and more explicit than those of Q.

- And lose your voyce; what wold'ft thou begge *Laertes*,
 That shall not be my offer, not thy asking?
 The head is not more ~~natiue to the hart~~
 The hand more instrumentall to the mouth.
 Then is the throne of Denmarke to thy father,
- 50 What wold'ft thou haue *Laertes*?
Laer. My dread Lord,
 Your leaue and fauour to returne to Fraunce,
 From whence, though willingly I came to Denmarke,
 To shoue my dutie in your Coronation;
 Yet now I must confesse, that duty done
 My thoughts and wifhes bend againe toward Fraunce
 And bowe them to your gracious leaue and pardon.
- King.* Haue you your fathers leaue, what saies *Polonius*?
Pol. A hath my Lord wrong from me my flowe leaue
 By labourfome petition, and at last
- 60 Vpon his will I feald my hard consent,
 I doe beseech you giue him leaue to goe.
King. Take thy faire houre *Laertes*, time be thine
 And thy best graces spend it at thy will:
 But now my *Cofin Hamlet*, and my sonne.
Ham. A little more then kin, and lesse then kind.
King. How is it that the clowdes still hang on you.

45-6 Q. prints *Laertes*,? and asking, at the end of these lines. The occurrence of the comma after *Laertes* shows that the careless printer misplaced the question mark which should come after asking and set a comma there instead.

50 F. *Dread my Lord*, a scribe's accidental inversion.

55 F. *towards for Q. toward.*

58-60 Q. reads *Polo. Hath my Lord etc.* Q. F. read *He hath*, which is certainly right. The regular speech heading for Polonius is *Pol* not *Polo*, and it seems certain that Shakespeare wrote *Pol. a hath*, as *a* occurs repeatedly in this play and elsewhere in Shakespeare for *he*. The printer of Q., however, misread, as often, *a* as *o*, annexed his mistaken *o* to the speech-heading giving *Polo.* and capitalized the *h* in *hath* as the first letter of the line.

F. omits here two and one-half lines from *wrong* to *consent*. They must have been in the original text since Q. *wrung from me a forced graunt* is a paraphrase of the Q. text, and the F. *He hath my Lord* is a short line indicating a cut. Why so brief a cut should be made in the F. text is not clear; it may have been accidental or the ms. on which F. rests was illegible here and the scribe simply dropped the lines.

- Ham. Not so my Lord, I am too much in the sonne.
 Queene. Good Hamlet cast thy ~~nighted~~ colour off
 And let thine eye looke like a friend on *Denmarke*,
 70 Doe not for euer with thy vailed lids
 Seeke for thy noble Father in the dust,
 Thou know It tis common, all that liues must die,
Paising through nature to eternitie.
 Ham. I Maddam, it is common.
 Quee. If it be
 VVhy feemes it so perticuler with thee.
 Ham. Seemes Maddam, nay it is, I know not feemes,
 Tis not alone my incky cloake good mother
 Nor custumary fuites of folembe blacke
 Nor windie fuspuration of forst breath
 80 No, nor the fruitfull riuier in the eye,
 Nor the deieted hauior of the visage
 Together with all formes, moods, shapes of grieve
 That can denote me truely, these indeede feeme,
 For they are actions that a man might play
 But I haue that within which passeth ~~showe~~ *showe*
 These but the trappings and the fuites of woe.
 King. Tis sweete and commendable in your nature Hamlet,
 To ~~giue these mourning duties to your father~~
 But you must knowe your father lost a father,
 90 That father lost, lost his, and the furuiuer bound

- 67 Q. *not so much my Lord*. The *much* here is a printer's anticipation of much later in the line. F. **Not so my Lord**, gives the correct reading.
 Q. *in the sonne*—F. *i' th' Sun*. Shakespeare sometimes spelled sun *sonne* as in *V. and A.*, l. 750. Wilson cites also *T. and C.*, 5.1.102, but here only Q. spells *sonne*, while F. has *Sunne*. Shakespeare's spelling in this present case was probably influenced by *sonne*, l. 64; he is punning to both eye and ear.
 68 F. *nightly*, a modernization.
 72 The comma after **common** is supplied from F.
 77 Q. *could mother*; F. (**good Mother**). Wilson explains this curious mistake as due to a miscorrection of the proof. He thinks the printer set up *cood*, repeating the initial *c* of the preceding word, *cloake*. The corrector saw that this was nonsense and changed *cood* to *could* without consulting the copy. A later "correction" in Q. "improved" it still further by printing *could smother*. The Q. misprint may, however, be an instance of "foul case."
 82 Q. *chapes*; F. *shewes* due perhaps to *showe*, l. 85. There is little doubt that Shakespeare meant *shapes*; possibly he wrote *schapes* and the printer dropped the initial *s*. Q. gives correctly *shapes*.
 83 Q. *deuote*; F. **denote**. Q. has the common error of a *u* for *n*.
 85 F. *passeth*. It is unusual to find the archaic form of the third singular present in F., but it sometimes occurs.

- In fillial obligation for some tearme
 To doe obsequious sorrowe, but to perseuer
 In obstinate condolement, is a course
 Of impious stubbornnes, tis vnmanly grieffe,
 It shewes a will most incorrect to heauen
 A hart vnfortified, a minde impatient
 An vnderstanding simple and vn schoold
 For what we knowe must be, and is as common
 As any the most vulgar thing to fence,
 100 Why should we in our peniſh opposition
Take it to hart? fie, tis a fault to heauen,
A fault againſt the dead, a fault to nature,
 To reason most absurd, whose common theame
 Is death of fathers, and who itill hath cryed
From the first coarſe, till he that died to day
 This must be so: we pray you throw to earth
 This vnpreuailing woe, and thinke of vs
 As of a father, for let the world take note
 You are the most imediate to our throne,
 110 And with no lesse nobilitie of loue,
 Then that which dearest father beares his sonne,
 * Doe I impart toward you: for your intent
 In going back to schoole in *Wittenberg*,
 It is most retrograde to our desire,
 And we beseech you bend you to remaine
 Heere in the cheare and comfort of our eye,
 Our chiefeſt courtier, cofin, and our sonne.
 Quee. Let not thy mother loose her prayers *Hamlet*,
 I pray thee stay with vs, goe not to *Wittenberg*.

- 96 Q. or minde; F. a Minde. Shakespeare's a must often have looked like or; cf. 1.5.56, below, where fate has been misread as fort.
- 101 The question mark after hart is supplied from F. Q. has a comma here.
- 105 Q. course; F. Coarse. Q. shows the u for a misprint; F. has a common sixteenth century variant, appearing as late as Rowe's *Tamerlane* (1702), of corse for corpse. Thus in Q. of R. III, 1.2.32, 33, 36 we get in quick succession the spellings, *course*, *corſe* and *coarſe*.
- 112 If we take impart as a reflexive verb meaning impart (bestow) myself, we get a possible sense out of a frequently emended passage. The King's speech is probably intentionally vague, and the sentence structure from l. 110 to l. 112 shows an anacolouthon.
 There is no punctuation after you in Q.; F. has a period. The colon often used by Shakespeare to denote a pause in a speech is perhaps preferable here.
- 113 Griggs has period after *Wittenberg*; Q. and F. a comma.
- 114 Q. retrogard—F. retrograde. The printer of Q. has transposed a and r.

120 *Ham.* I fhall in all my beft obay you Madam.

King. Why tis a louing and a faire reply,
Be as our felfe in Denmarke, Madam come,
This gentle and vnforc'd accord of *Hamlet*
Sits fmiling to my hart, in grace whereof,
No iocond health that Denmarke drinkes to day,
But the great Cannon to the cloudes fhall tell,
And the Kings rowfe the heauen fhall brute againe,
Refpeaking earthly thunder; come away. *Florifh. Exeunt all,*

Ham. O that this too too fullied flefh would melt, *but Hamlet,*
130 Thaw and refolue it felfe into a dewe,
Or that the euerlafting had not fixt
His cannon gainft fealfe flaughter, ô God, God,
How weary, ftale, flat, and vnprofitable

122 Q. has a comma, F. a period after **Denmarke**, an interesting example of the light punctuation of Q. as opposed to the heavy stopping of F. In l. 126, however, Q. has a period after **tell** where F. has rightly a comma. This is a printer's error in Q.

129 Qq. *fallied*—F. *folid*. Down to quite recent times editors have followed F. in this famous line. Van Dam prints *sailed*, "the aphetized form" of the past participle of *assail*. No such form, however, occurs in Shakespeare or, if *N.E.D.* may be trusted, anywhere else in English. It seems fairly certain that the F. *solid* is a conjectural emendation of the unintelligible *fallied* of the Qq. A better correction given as an anonymous conjecture in Furness and in the Aldis Wright Cambridge is *sullied*. This involves the common *u* as a misreading, one which actually appears in a cognate word a little further on, 2.1.39, where Q. *fallies* is correctly given by F. as *fulleyes*. This emendation, *sullied*, is accepted by Greg and Wilson.

It is hardly worth discussing whether or not Shakespeare would have asked Burbadge about 1600 to describe his flesh as *too too solid*. Probably no actor of the part since 1623, whether slender or stout, has hesitated to say *too too solid*. The question is not one of taste, but of spelling. Now Shakespeare spelled *solid* as we do, occasionally adding an *e* (*folide*, 2 *K.H.IV*, 3.1.48, in both Q. and F.). It is hard to see how a printer could change *solid*, if that were what Shakespeare wrote here, to *fallied*, whereas *fullied* into *fallied* is the easiest of mistakes. As Wilson notes *fullied* fits well in the opening lines of this speech; Hamlet wishes that his *sullied* flesh would melt like *sullied* (dirty) snow in a thaw.

132 Q. *feale* flaughter; F. *Selfe-flaughter*. **Sealf(e)** is a recognized sixteenth century variant of *self*; it was probably the spelling that Shakespeare used here and the form *feale* is due to the careless dropping of the *f* by the Q. printer. F. inserts an *O* before the second God, an actor's addition.

133 Q. *war*, F. correctly **weary**. Wilson suggests that *wery*, which he calls a Shakespearean spelling may have been miscorrected to *wary*. This spelling does not appear in *V.* and *A.* or *Lucrece* where one naturally looks for examples of his spelling. In these poems the word is usually spelled *wearie*, once *weary*; *wery* occurs once in Sonnet 7. Probably the Q. printer dropped the *e*.

- Seeme to me all the vſes of this world!
 Fie on't, ah fie, tis an vnweeded garden
 That growes to feede, things rancke and groſe in nature
 Poſſeſſe it meerely, that it ſhould come thus
 But two months dead, nay not ſo much, not two,
 So excellent a King, that was to this
 140 Hiperion to a fatire, ſo louing to my mother,
 That he might not beteeme the winds of heauen
 Viſite her face too roughly, heauen and earth
 Muſt I remember, why ſhe would hang on him
 As if increaſe of appetite had growne
 By what it fed on, and yet within a month,
 Let me not thinke on't; frailty thy name is woman.
 A little month or ere thoſe ſnooes were old
 With which ſhe followed my poore fathers bodie
 Like Niobe all teares, why ~~ſhe~~, even ſhe.

- 134 Q. Seeme; F. Seemes. If the readings were reversed one would say that F. was modernizing. As it is one can only conjecture a slip on the part of the scribe or the printer of F.

Both Q. and F. have an interrogation mark after **world**. Elizabethan printers were apt to use ? and ! indiscriminately. The question mark is much more frequently used.

- 135 F. has a question mark to denote exclamation after **on't**, and reads *O fie, fie*. The F. line shows an actor's rendering of the text.

- 136 Q. has a comma after **nature**—cf. note on 1.1.26 above; F. correctly has no punctuation here.

Contrariwise Q. has no punctuation after **meerely**, l. 137, where F. has a period. Presumably the Q. printer has misplaced his commas; the unnecessary stop after **nature** should have come after **meerely**.

- 137 Q. **come thus**; F. *come to this* which has been followed by all editors, except Van Dam, since Pope who approved the Q. reading because of its metrical regularity. Wilson suggests that the Q. printer may have dropped out *to* and later miscorrected *this* to *thus*. The Q. reading, although perhaps less emphatic than that of F. makes quite good sense and should be retained. The F. *to this* may be the scribe's anticipation of the same phrase in the same position at the end of the line only two lines below.

- 140 Q. **fatire**, a common sixteenth century spelling of **satyr**; cf. F. *Satyre*. This is the only place where the word occurs in Shakespeare, who probably spelled it as in Q.

- 143 The Q. *should* is an evident misprint. F. correctly **would**, i.e. *was wont to*.

- 146 Q. has no punctuation after **woman**; the period is supplied from F.

- 149 The words **even ſhe**, omitted in Q., are supplied from F. Wilson in the Cranach *Hamlet* says "the broken line here leads on admirably to the abrupt change in the following line." The change seems quite as abrupt when **even ſhe** is added and the repetition is quite in the manner of Hamlet's speech. In the Cambridge *Hamlet* Wilson restores the phrase to the text, reckoning it among the numerous careless omissions of the Q. printer.

- 150 O God, a beaft that wants difcourfe of reafon
Would haue mourn'd longer, married with my Vncle,
My fathers brother, but no more like my father
 Then I to *Hercules*, within a month,
 Ere yet the falt of moft vnrighteous teares,
 Had left the flufhing in her gauled eyes
 She married, ô moft wicked fpeede; to poft
 With fuch dexteritie to inceftious fheets.
 It is not, nor it cannot come to good,
 But breake my hart, for I muft hold my tongue.
Enter Horatio, Marcellus, and Barnardo.
- 160 *Hora.* Haile to your Lordfhip.
Ham. I am glad to fee you well;
Horatio, or I do forget my felfe.
Hora. The fame my Lord, and your poore feruant euer.
Ham. Sir my good friend, Ile change that name with you,
 *And what make you from *Wittenberg* *Horatio*?
Marcellus.
Mar. My good Lord.
Ham. I am very glad to fee you, (good euen fir)
 But what in faith make you from *Wittenberg*?

- 150 F. O Heauen! The change of Q. **God** to *Heauen* is one of the many, though by no means consistent, instances of the "purging" of the text of profanity which appears in this as in other plays in F. The clause from **O Heaven to longer** is enclosed in brackets in F.
- 153 Q. has a comma; F. a period after **Hercules**, another example of the light punctuation of Q.
- 155 Q. **flufhing in**; F. *Flushing of*. If we take **flufhing** in the sense of *reddening*, the preposition **in** is, perhaps, better than *of*. Shakespeare seems to have used the word *flush* only as an adjective denoting ripening vigor, and so redness; cf. *Ham.*, 3.3.81 (where F. has *fresh*), *A. and C.*, 1.4.52, and *Timon*, 5.4.8. *N.E.D.* gives no instance of the verb *flush* in the sense of *redde*n as early as this. On the other hand the verb *flush* meaning "to scour by an outpouring of water" was in use in the sixteenth century. It is possible that the F. scribe understood *flushing* in this sense and altered the preposition **in** to *of* to correspond to his understanding of the text.
- 157 Q. **incestious**; F. *Incestuous*. *N.E.D.* records **incestious** in Sylvester, 1591, and in Heywood, 1632. F. modernizes the spelling.
- 159 s.d. This is the only place in Q. where the spelling *Bernardo* occurs. It is altered here to conform with the regular **Barnardo**, see note on l. 1, s.d. above.
- 160-1 Q. prints **I am . . . my felfe** as one line. It is better to follow F. and print *Horatio* . . . *my felfe* as a separate line.
- 167 Wilson thinks that the parenthesis in Q. in this line (F. has no parenthesis) marks "a change of tone. Hamlet gives a distant nod to the man-

Hora. A truant difpofition good my Lord.

- 170 *Ham.* I would not heare your enimie fay fo,
Nor fhall you doe my eare that violence
To make it trufte of your owne report
Againft your felfe, I knowe you are no truant,
But what is your affaie in *Elfonoure*?
Weele teach you for to drinke ere you depart.

Hora. My Lord, I came to fee your fathers funerall.

- Ham.* I prethee doe not mocke me fellowe ftudent,
I thinke it was to fee my mothers wedding.

at-arms, Barnardo." There is no reason to believe that Barnardo is of a lower rank than Marcellus. It may be, however, that he was less known to Hamlet; he does not accompany him to the platform that night.

- 170 F. *have*. Perhaps the change was made by an actor; *have your* is easier to say than *heare your*.

- 171 F. *mine eare*. It is quite possible that Shakespeare pronounced the phrase *my year*, thus avoiding an hiatus. The spelling *yeere* for *ear* occurs in the Q. of 2 *K.H.IV*, 1.2.218, *the yeere*; and there seems to be a pun on *ears* and *years* in *C. of E.*, 4.4.29. The scribe of F. avoids the hiatus by writing *mine* for *my*. Cf. below 1.3.68, where F. reads *thine* for Q. *thy eare*. See also 1.5.35, 41 and elsewhere.

- 174 Q. *Elsonoure* represents Shakespeare's spelling of this name. F. varies between *Elsenour* and *Elsenower*. The Q. spelling is retained in this edition.

- 175 F. *to drinke deepe*. So Q.₁ and most editors. Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 177) thinks this reading distinctly preferable and calls Q. a "vulgarisation." He suggests that the Q. printer accidentally dropped the word *deepe* and the "corrector" inserted *for* to restore the meter. The phrase *for to*, however, is not a vulgarism. It is a not uncommon usage in Elizabethan English and occurs more than once in Shakespeare. Cf. *All's Well*, 3.5.81; *Pericles*, 4.2.71, and *Wint. Tale*, 1.2.427. A later instance of this usage occurs in *The Faithful Shepherdess*, 5.5.75-6. In *Ham.*, 3.1.175, Claudius, who does not indulge in vulgar forms of speech, says, in the Q. text *which for to prevent*. In this latter passage the scribe of F. has modernized by dropping *for*, but has not inserted any word to take its place and has spoiled the meter by his omission. The fact that the reading *drinke deepe* appears in Q.₁ shows that the alteration was made at an early date. Possibly the use of *for to* here was meant by Shakespeare to indicate an easy colloquial form of speech by Hamlet to his friend.

- 177 Q., supported by Q.₁, reads *pre thee*; F. *pray thee*. The true reading is *prethee* (*prithée*). It looks here as if the printer of Q. had consulted a printed copy of Q.₁ and had been misled by the separation of the word. The F. form is a modernization which alters the sense; Shakespeare did not mean to write *pray*.

Q. *student*, a common sixteenth century variant. F. modernizes *student*.

- 178 The word *see* dropped in Q. is supplied from F.

- 180 *Hora.* Indeede my Lord it followed hard vpon.
Ham. Thrift, thrift, *Horatio*, the funerall bak't meates
 Did coldly furnifh forth the marriage tables,
 Would I had met my dearest foe in heauen
 Or euer I had seene that day *Horatio*,
 My father, me thinkes I see my father.
Hora. Where my Lord?
Ham. In my mindes eye *Horatio*.
Hora. I saw him once, a was a goodly King.
Ham. A was a man take him for all in all
 I fhall not looke vpon his like againe.
Hora. My Lord I thinke I saw him yesternight.
 190 *Ham.* Saw, who?
Hora. My Lord the King your father.
Ham. The King my father?
Hora. Seaſon your admiration for a while
 With an attent eare till I may deliuer
 Vpon the witnes of these gentlemen
 This maruaile to you.
Ham. For Gods loue let me heare!

- 183 The F. variant here, *Ere I had ever seene*, is perhaps another case of modernization.
 185 Q. *where*; F. *Oh where*, followed by many editors. Wilson calls it almost comic. It does not seem so; on the contrary it seems rather like an actor's (or prompter's) addition to emphasize Horatio's astonishment at Hamlet's speech. The Q. reading is intelligible and metrically satisfactory if *where* be regarded as the truncated first foot of a line that includes also the next speech of Hamlet, i.e. *Where . . . eye Horatio*. In as much as Q. agrees with Q. here this reading is to be preferred to that of F. It has been suggested that Shakespeare's ms. might have read *o where* and that the *o* was absorbed in the final *a* of the speech-heading *Hora.*, but *Hora.* is the regular speech-heading in Q. as *Hor.* is in F. It seems therefore unnecessary to assume such an absorption.
 186-7 Here as often F. alters Q. *a* and *A* to *he* and *He*.
 190 Saw, so F. Q. *saw*, a printer's error.
 115 Q. *maruaile*; F. *maruell*. Shakespeare seems to have spelled the word *maruaile*. (L.L.L., (Q.) 1.2.128 and 5.1.42), *meruaile* (*Cym.*, 3.1.10) and *maruel* (1) (*V. and A.*, 390, 2 *K.H.IV.*, 4.3.96). Here he probably spelled it *maruaile* and the Q. printer dropped the second *a*. See note on 2.1.3. F. "purges" the text by changing *Gods* to *Heavens*.
 Q. has a question mark used as an exclamation after *heare*. F. sets a period.

- Hora.* Two nights together had these gentlemen
Marcellus, and *Barnardo*, on their watch
 In the dead waft and middle of the night
 Beene thus incountred, a figure like your father
 200 Armed at poynt, exactly *Capapea*
 Appeares before them, and with folemne march,
 Goes flowe and stately by them; thrice he walkt
 By their opprest and feare-furprised eyes
 Within his tronchions length, whil't they diftil'd
 Almost to gelly, with the act of feare
 Stand dumbe and speake not to him; this to me
 In dreadfull secrecie impart they did,
 And I with them the third night kept the watch,
 Where as they had deliuered both in time
 210 Forme of the thing, each word made true and good,
 The Apparifion comes: I knewe your father,
 These hands are not more like.
Ham. But where was this?
Mar. My Lord vppon the platforme where we watch.

- 198 Q. F. *wast*; Q.₁ *vast*, followed by many editors. Q.₁ possibly indicates the pronunciation of the word on Shakespeare's stage. Cf. *Temp.*, 1.2.327. There is little difference in meaning between *vast* used as a noun and *waste*, and it is better to preserve Shakespeare's spelling with the implied play on words, waste and waist; cf. *Ham.*, 2.2.238 where Q. has *waft*, F. *waste*, for waist.
- 200 F. *Arm'd at all points* shows a tampering with the text for the sake of regularizing a supposedly deficient line. Not realizing that Shakespeare's *Armed* was a dissyllable the F. scribe wrote *Arm'd* and inserted *all* to fill out the meter, at the same time changing *poynt* to *points*.
 F. *Cap a Pe* shows an attempt to revert to the French original of the phrase. The Q. shows Shakespeare's pronunciation and gives full metrical value to the line.
- 202 The F. punctuation *stately: By them thrice* is a characteristic change for the worse.
- 203 The hyphen between *feare* and *furprised* is supplied from F.
- 204 Q. *diftil'd*, F. *bestifed*; this word does not appear in English according to *N.E.D.* before 1770 when it was presumably borrowed from the familiar F. text.
- 209 Q. and F. agree in the error *Whereas*; Q.₁ *Where as*. According to Greg (*Principles*, p. 66) this is the sole case where Q.₁ corrects an error common to Q. and F.
- 213 F. *watcht*, supported by Q.₁ *watched*. It is possible that a *t* may have dropped off at the end of the Q. line as in 242 below. In the Folger and Eliz. Club copies the *h* is broken so that the word looks like *watch*; it is plainer in the Hunt. copy. Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 93) declares that a comma

Ham. Did you not speake to it?

Hora. My Lord I did,

But anfwere made it none, yet once me thought

It lifted vp it head, and did addresse

It felfe to motion like as it would speake:

But euen then the morning Cock crewe loudē,

And at the found it shrunk in haft away

220 And vanisht from our fight.

Ham. Tis very ftrange.

Hora. As I doe liue my honor'd Lord tis true

And we did thinke it writ downe in our dutie

To let you knowe of it.

Ham. Indeede indeede Sirs but this troubles me,
Hold you the watch to night?

All. We doe my Lord.

Ham. Arm'd fay you?

All. Arm'd my Lord.

Ham. From top to toe?

All. My Lord from head to foote.

Ham. Then fawe you not his face?

230 *Hora.* O yes my Lord, he wore his beauer vp.

Ham. What, look't he frowningly?

Hora. A countenance more in forrow then in anger.

Ham. Pale, or red?

Hora. Nay very pale.

Ham. And fixt his eyes vpon you?

Hora. Moft constantly.

Ham. I would I had beene there.

Hora. It would haue much amaz'd you.

is visible after a blurred *h* in the Grim. copy. This would seem to establish *watch* as the true reading; the present tense implying customary action, "where we are wont to watch," makes perfect sense.

219 QF. *hast*; cf. the spelling *wast*, l. 198 above.

222 The *right done* of Q. seems an instance of mishearing by the reporter.

224 The second *indeede* in this line is supplied from F. The Q. printer often drops a word.

226, 227, 228 Qq. *All*; F. *Both*, in three speech-headings. Probably Shakespeare wrote *All* and the prompter knowing that only Horatio and Marcellus would accompany Hamlet to the platform altered the heading to have them speak while Barnardo kept silence.

229 There is no question mark after *face* in Q. It is supplied from F. Hamlet here as before is putting a series of questions to his friends.

231 There is no punctuation after *what* in Q. The comma which seems necessary is supplied from F.

- Ham.* Very like, very like, stayd it long?
Hora. While one with moderate haft might tell a hundreth.
Both. Longer, longer.
 240 *Hora.* Not when I faw't.
Ham. His beard was grifsl'd, no?
Hora. It was as I haue feene it in his life
 A fable filuer'd.
Ham. I will watch to night
 Perchaunce twill walke againe.
Hora. I warn't it will.
Ham. If it assume my noble fathers perfon,
 Ile fpeake to it though hell it felfe fhould gape
 And bid me hold my peace; I pray you all
 If you haue hetherto conceald this fight
 Let it be tenable in your filence ftill,
 And what fomeuer els fhall hap to night,
 250 Giue it an vnderftanding but no tongue,
 I will requite your loues, fo farre you well:
 Vppon the platforme twixt cleauen and twelfe
 Ile vifite you.

- 237 Q. omits the second **very like** in this line. Inasmuch as both Q.₁ and F. have it, we may assume that the Q. printer dropped it out. The repetition is characteristic of Hamlet's speech, cf. l. 224 above.
 238 Q. **hundreth**; Q.₁F. *hundred*. The Q. spelling is a recognized variant in Elizabethan English. Q.₁F. modernize the spelling.
 239 Q. speech heading **Both**; F. *All*. The Q. reading is certainly right since Horatio at once contradicts his companions. Q.₁ gives the speech to Marcellus.
 240 Q. has a period after **no**. The necessary question mark is supplied from F. which reads *grifly?* *no*. F. *grifly* shows the scribe's misunderstanding of the word; his *grifly* means *horrible*, *fear-inspiring*, while Shakespeare's **grifsl'd**, a variant of "grizzled" means, as the context shows, grey.
 242 The final *t* has dropped off the word **night** in Q.
 243 F. *wake*, a misprint for Qq. *walke*.
 Q. **warn't**; F. *warrant* you. Q. is preferable metrically as well as textually. The curious spelling of Q. may be due to an abbreviation in Shakespeare's ms.; it probably represents his pronunciation; see note on 2.1.38 below.
 248 Q. **tenable**; F. *treble*, probably the printer's misreading of the scribe's hand; see Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 45).
 249 Q. **what fomeuer**; Q.₁F. *whatfoeuer*, a modernization both in the actor's part and in F. of a somewhat archaic form which, however, occurs in the form *whatfomere* in *All's Well*, 3.5.54, and as *whatfomer* in *A. and C.*, 3.6.102.
 252 The quaint spelling *a leauen* in Q. may be due to a misprint, *a* for *e*. In the Cranach *Hamlet* Wilson prints *aleauen*, calling it a Shakespearean

All. Our dutie to your honor. *Exeunt.*

Ham. Your loues, as mine to you, farwell.

My fathers spirit (in armes) all is not well,
 I doubt some foule play would the night were come,
 Till then fit still my foule, foule deedes will rife
 Though all the earth ore-whelme them to mens eyes. *Exit.*

I. iii.) *Enter Laertes, and Ophelia his Sister.*

Laer. My necessaries are imbarckt, farwell,
 And fiftter, as the winds giue benefit
 And conuoy is afsitant doe not sleepe
 But let me heere from you.

Ophe. Doe you doubt that?

spelling. There are two instances of a *leuen* in plays presumably printed from Shakespeare's ms., *R. and J.* (Q.₂), 1.3.35. and *M. of V.* (Q.₁), 2.2.171. On the other hand there are at least eight cases of *eleven* in similarly printed plays. The two exceptions may be due, like the present case, to a printer's misreading a for e.

- 254 Q. *loues*; F. *loue*, preferred by some editors as corresponding to *dutie*, l. 253; but *loues* is distributive to each of those addressed, whereas *dutie* is used collectively.

It is a question whether the repetition of the phrase, *your loues, your loues*, as in Q.₁ should not be adopted, as it is by Van Dam. It is in Hamlet's manner and completes the meter; but in the face of the agreement of Q. and F. it seems better to retain their reading and regard Q.₁ as showing an actor's exaggeration of Hamlet's manner.

- 255 Q. sets *in armes* in parenthesis. This instance supports Wilson's hypothesis that parentheses were used by Shakespeare to indicate to the actor a change of voice. There is, however, no consistency in such a practice and in this case neither Q.₁ nor F. has a parenthesis. F. has a ? for ! after *Armes*.

- 257 Q. *fonde*, Q.₁F. *foule* which is, of course, correct. The Q. error comes from an inverted *u* for *n* and a misreading of *l* as *d*; cf. note on 1.3.131 below.

Act I, scene 3

- s.d. Q. runs *Opheliahis* together as one word. The descriptive phrase seems to show that this is her first appearance; see note on s.d. before 1.2 above.

- 1 Q. *inbarck't*, F. *imbark't*. The Q. spelling *in-* occurs nowhere else in Shakespeare; the F. *im-* is found also in *C. of E.*, 5.1.409, *R. III*, 1.4.10, and *Oth.* (Q.), 1.1.150. Q. here shows a minim misprint.

- 3 Q. *conuay, in*; F. *Conuoy is*, the correct reading. The Q. printer mistook *o* in the second syllable for *a* and, perhaps, construing the word as a verb put a comma after it and to make some sort of sense changed *is* to *in*. Wilson attributes the change to the "corrector."

Laer. For *Hamlet*, and the trifling of his fauour,
 Hold it a fashon, and a toy in blood,
 A Violet in the youth of primy nature,
 Forward, not permanent, tweeete, not lasting,
 The perfume and suppliance of a minute
 No more.

Ophe. No more but fo.

Laer. Thinke it no more.

For nature creffant does not growe alone
 In thewes and bulke, but as this temple waxes
 The inward seruice of the minde and foule
 Growes wide withall, perhapes he loues you now,
 And now no foyle nor cautell doth befmirch
 The vertue of his will, But you must feare,
 His greatnes wayd, his will is not his owne,
 For hee himfelfe is subiect to his Birth:
 He may not as vnuaiewed perfons doe.
 Carue for himfelfe, for on his choife depends
 The fanity and health of this whole ftate,

5 *Q. fauour*; *F. fauours*. It is unlikely that *Q.* has dropped the *s* since *faueur* is followed by a comma. *F.* shows an arbitrary alteration.

6 There is no punctuation after *blood* in *Q.*; the *F.* semicolon is too heavy.

F. Froward, a mere misprint, which none the less affects the meaning.

F. omits, by accident, the phrase *perfume and*.

10 There is no question mark after *Ophelia's* speech either in *Q.* or *F.* It was added by *Rowe* who has been followed by most editors including *Wilson*. It seems unnecessary, for *Ophelia's* words may be taken as an echo in sad affirmation of her brother's statement.

12 *Q. bulkes*; *F. Bulke*. The *Q.* printer misled by *thewes* in this line has added an *s* to the word; cf. 1.1.16 above.

F. his, followed by some editors, probably an error in transcription. *Q. this* is certainly correct.

14 *Q.* has a period after *withall*. The light punctuation of *Q.* is preferable.

16 For *Q. will*, *F.* reads *feare*; an error by anticipation of last word in the line.

17 *Q. wayd*, a variant of *F. weigh'd*, cf. 1. 29 below.

18 This line has dropped out of *Q.* and is supplied from *F.*

21 *Q. The fafty and health*—*F. The sanctity and health*. Neither reading can be correct. *Wilson* (*Cranach Hamlet*) accepted *Warburton's* emendment and inserted *the*, presumably dropped by the *Q.* printer, before *health*. Yet if this, *the safty and the health*, were the reading of the ms., it is hard to see where the *F.* scribe got *sanctity*, which can hardly be a misreading of *safety*. Perhaps Shakespeare wrote *sanety*, misread by *Q.* printer as *safty* and set up as *safty*; misread by the scribe as *sancty* and transcribed *sanctity*. Or a ms. spelling *safty* might produce these divergent errors. Cf. 2.2.218 below where *Q.* reads *sanctity*, *F.* correctly *sanity*,

- And therefore muſt his choiſe be circumscrib'd
 Vnto the voyce and yeelding of that body
 Whereof he is the head, then if he ſaies he loues you,
 It fits your wiſdome ſo farre to belieue it
 As he in his particuler act and place
 May giue his ſaying deede, which is no further
 Then the maine voyce of Denmarke goes withall.
 Then way what loſſe your honor may ſuftaine
 30 If with too credent eare you liſt his ſongs
 Or looſe your hart, or your chaſt treaſure open
 To his vnmaſtred importunity.
 Feare it *Ophelia*, feare it my deare ſiſter,
 And keepe you in the reare of your affection
 Out of the ſhot and danger of deſire,
 "The charieſt maide is prodigall inough
 If ſhe vnmaſke her butie to the Moone,
 "Vertue it ſelfe ſcapes not calumnious ſtrokes,
 "The canker gaules the infants of the ſpring
 40 Too oft before their buttons be diſcloſ'd,
 And in the morne and liquid dewe of youth
 Contagious blaſtments are moſt imminent,
 Be wary then, beſt ſafety lies in feare,
 Youth to it ſelfe rebels, though non els neare.
Ophe. I ſhall the effect of this good leſſon keepe
 As watchman to my hart, but good my brother
 Doe not as ſome vngracious paſtors doe,

showing how these words might be confused. Theobald's emendation *sanity* is eminently satisfactory; *sanity* and *health* is a good Shakespearean doublet. Wilson now (Cambridge *Hamlet*) *accepts this emendation—see also Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 316).

F. *the weole*; the first word shows the F. prejudice against the demonstrative; the second is a misprint.

- 26 F. *Sect and force*. Wilson suggests that the ms. *act* was misread as *sect* (i.e. sex) and *place* was then altered to *force* to suit the context.

- 31 F. *lose*, followed by all editors; but Q. *loose*—set free, unloose, gives good sense. Possibly there is a play on words in the Q. phrase *loose your hart*. In Shakespeare's day there was little distinction between *loose* and *lose*, cf. l. 76 below and *Temp.* 2.1.125.

- 34 F. *within the reare*, an arbitrary alteration, due to the scribe.

- 36-39 An inverted comma, or commas as here, was often used in Elizabethan printing to mark the beginning—it was not used at the end—of a sententious moralizing speech; cf. 4.5.17-20 below.

There is no punctuation after *Moone* and *strokes* in Q.; F. has a colon after the first and a comma after the second word.

- 40 F. *the*, a careless alteration of Q. *their*.

- 46 F. *watchmen*, another careless alteration.

Showe me the steep and thorny way to heauen
Whiles like a puft, and reckles libertine

- 50 Himselfe the primrose path of dalience treads,
And reakes not his owne reed. *Enter Polonius.*

Laer. O feare me not,
I stay too long, but heere my father comes.
A double blessing is a double grace,
Occasion smiles vpon a second leaue.

Pol. Yet heere *Laertes*? a bord, a bord for fhame,
The wind fits in the shoulder of your faile,
And you are stayed for, there my blessing with thee,
And these fewe precepts in thy memory

- Looke thou character, giue thy thoughts no tongue,
60 Nor any vnproportion'd thought his act,
Be thou familer, but by no meanes vulgar,
Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them vnto thy foule with hoopes of Steele;
But doe not dull thy palme with entertainment
Of each new hatcht vnpledgd courage, beware

- 48 The three 1604 copies and the B.M. 1605 Q. read *step*. This mere misprint was corrected in the press; the T.C.C. and Grim. copies, like F., have *steepe*.

- 49 F. *whilst*, an unnecessary change. The word *like*, necessary to both sense and meter, accidentally dropped in Q., is supplied from F.

- 50 Q. has a period after *treads*; F. correctly a comma.

- 51 The Q. spelling *reakes* (F. *reaks*) is an Elizabethan variant of *recks* which Pope introduced into the text.

- 52 Q. has no point after *comes*; F. a colon. A period seems required.

- 53 Q. has an unnecessary comma after *blessing*; F. has no punctuation here.

- 57 F. *with you*. Apparently the Q. *thee* has been changed to harmonize with *you* earlier in the line.

The F. punctuation in this line, *for there*., alters the sense.

- 59 F. *See*, one of the many substitutions by way of paraphrase.

- 62 F. *The*, another instance of the scribe's avoidance of the demonstrative; cf. 1.1.160 above.

Q. *a doption*, a printer's error, corrected by F.

- 63 For Q. *unto*, F. reads *to*, normalizing the meter. This change has been followed by most editors. There is no good reason to discard the Q. reading; the slight irregularity in the meter is rather characteristic of the speech of Polonius.

- 65 Qq. *courage*, F. *Comrade*, followed by all editors except Wilson. F. seems to be the scribe's emendation of a word used in a sense unfamiliar to him. The word *courage* was sometimes applied in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to a man of high spirit. Wilson cites an example from Hoby's translation of *Il Cortegiano* (*Tudor Translations*, p. 327) where the Italian has *animi divini*, and N.E.D. gives an example from W.

- Of entrance to a quarrell, but being in,
 Bear't that th'oppofed may beware of thee,
 Giue euery man thy eare, but fewe thy voyce,
 Take each mans cenſure, but referue thy iudgement,
 70 Coſtly thy habite as thy purſe can buy,
 But not expreſt in fancy; rich not gaudy,
 For the apparrell oft proclaimes the man
 And they in Fraunce of the beſt ranck and ſtation,
 Are of a moſt ſelect and generous chiefe in that:
 Neither a borrower nor a lender be,

Browne's *Polexander* (1647), p. 197. Inasmuch as Q.₁ supports Q.₂ here, it seems plain that *courage* was Shakespeare's word.

F. *vnhatc'h't*, a mere misprint.

- 70 The three 1604 Qs., and the B.M. copy have the misprint *by*, corrected in T.C.C. and Grim. and in F. to *buy*.

- 74 One of the most difficult *cruces* in *Hamlet*. The three texts read:

Q.₁ *Are of a moſt ſelect and generall chiefe in that;*

Q. *Or of a moſt ſelect and generous, chiefe in that;*

F. *Are of a moſt ſelect and generous cheff in that.*

Most editors solve the difficulty by omitting the words *of a* and interpreting *chiefe* (*cheff*) as an adjective used adverbially, i.e. *chiefly*. But two words which appear in all three texts cannot be simply deleted. It is clear that the *Or* of Q. comes from a misreading of Shakespeare's *A* as *O*; *Are*, therefore, as in Q.₁F., is correct. Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, p. 317) believes the original read *Are often most select and generous, chief in that*. He takes *of a* to be a misreading of *often*, possibly spelled *offn* or *ofn*. It is simpler, however, to retain the Q. reading with the necessary correction of *Or* to *Are*—Shakespeare possibly wrote *Ar*—and to interpret *chiefe* as a noun governed by *of*. The scribe emended *chiefe* to *cheff*, evidently feeling that the spelling *chiefe* did not express the sense wanted; he could not have understood *chiefe* as meaning *chiefly*. Now *chiefe*, of which *cheff* is a sixteenth century spelling, may mean *head*, *eminence*; in heraldry *chief* denotes the head or upper part of the shield. The sense of the passage then would be that Frenchmen of the best rank are of a special eminence or distinction in the matter of rich, but not gaudy dress. This seems a better interpretation than to say that such men are often *select* and *generous*, *chiefly* in the matter of dress. The comma after *generous* in Q. must be deleted; it is probably an insertion by the printer who certainly misunderstood the passage and took *chiefe* as an adverb meaning *chiefly*. Neither Q.₁ nor F. has a punctuation mark after *generous*. The true reading then, would be:

Are of a most select and generous chief in that.

- 75 Q. *boy*; F. *be*. Probably a flourish on *e* was mistaken by the Q. printer for a *y*. He then set up *bey* which was naturally "corrected" to *boy*. Wilson suggests that the Q. printer misread *be* as *bo* and that the "corrector" emended to *boy*. In either case Q. is a printer's error.

- For lone oft loofes both it felfe, and friend,
 And borrowing dulleth edge of hufbandry;
 This aboue all, to thine owne felfe be true
 And it muft followe as the night the day
 80. Thou canst not then be falfe to any man:
 Farwell, my blefsing feafon this in thee.
Laer. Most humbly doe I take my leaue my Lord.
Pol. The time inuefts you goe, your feruants tend.
Laer. Farwell *Ophelia*, and remember well
 What I haue fayd to you.
Ophe. Tis in my memory lockt
 And you your felfe fhall keepe the key of it.
Laer. Farwell. *Exit Laertes.*
Pol. What ist *Ophelia* he hath said to you?
Ophe. So please you, something touching the Lord *Hamlet*.
 90 *Pol.* Marry well bethought
 Tis tolde me he hath very oft of late
 Giuen priuate time to you, and you your felfe
 Haue of your audience beene most free and bountious,
 If it be so, as so tis put on me,
 And that in way of caution, I must tell you,
 You doe not vnderstand your felfe so cleerely
 As it behooues my daughter, and your honor,
 What is betweene you? giue me vp the truth.
Ophe. He hath my Lord of late made many tenders
 100 Of his affection to me.

-
- 76 *Q. loue*, an inverted *n. F.* correctly *lone* = loan. •
Q. loofes; *F. lofes*; cf. note on l. 31 above.
 77 *Q. dulleth edge*; *F. dulls the edge*, followed by all editors, but plainly
 a modernization. Wilson says "possibly *F* is right since *dulls th' edge*
 might be misread *dulleth edge*. It seems unlikely that Shakespeare wrote
 the unmetrical *dulls th' edge*; more likely *Q.* gives a misreading of an
 original *dulleth th' edge*.
 83 *Q. inuefts*; *F. inuites*, followed by most editors; but *invests*, either in
 the sense of *lays siege to* or *engages* (cf. *N.E.D. sub invests* 7 and 8) gives
 good sense. It is probable that the scribe unfamiliar with these rarer
 meanings altered *invests* to the more intelligible *inuites*. Wilson, however,
 thinks *invests* is an error due to a printer's setting up *invets* followed by a
 miscorrection, and calls attention to *the time inviting thee—Cym., 3.4.108*.
 93 The Griggs photolithographic reproduction of *Q.* has a period after
bountious. The three 1604 *Qq.* have a comma reproducing Shakespeare's
 light punctuation. *F.* has a period; cf. l. 102 below.
 98 *Q.* has no punctuation after *you* and a comma for full stop after *truth*;
F. a comma after *you* and a question mark after *truth*. Plainly the ques-
 tion mark should come after *you*, where the interrogative sentence ends, and
 a full stop after *truth*.

Pol. Affection, puh, you speake like a greene girle
Vnfit in such perrilous circumstance,
Doe you belieue his tenders as you call them?

Ophe. I doe not knowe my Lord what I should thinke.

Pol. Marry I will teach you, thinke your selfe a babie
That you haue tane these tenders for true pay
Which are not fterling, tender your selfe more dearely
Or (not to crack the winde of the poore phraie
Running it thus) you'l tender me a foole.

110 *Ophe.* My Lord he hath importun'd me with loue
In honorable fashon.

Pol. I, fashon you may call it, go to, go to.

Ophe. And hath giuen countenance to his speech my Lord,
With almost all the holy vowes of heauen.

Pol. I, springs to catch wood-cockes, I doe knowe
When the blood burnes, how prodigall the foule
Lends the tongue vowes, these blazes daughter
Giuing more light then heate, extinct in both

105 For Q. **I will**; F. reads *Ile* indicating the pronunciation. Wilson notes that such abbreviations are more common in F. than in Q. which has many cases of full spelling of words contractible in delivery.

106 F. *his*, another instance where the F. scribe alters the demonstrative pronoun.

109 Q. *Wrong*; F. *Roaming*. Neither can be right. Collier's emendation **Running** seems the best of the many that have been proposed. Wilson suggests that Shakespeare spelled the word, *ronig*, that the "contraction curl" (i.e. the macron ~) got mixed up with the horizontal stroke closing the top of the *g* in Elizabethan script, (see Kellner, p. 197) and that in consequence the Q. printer read *rong* which he set up as *Wrong*. On the other hand the F. scribe because of a minim error in the ms. read the word as *romig* which he naturally wrote as *Roaming*. This would seem to explain the errors in both texts. A letter to T.L.S. (September 4, 1937) suggests emending *wind* (l. 108) to *ring* and *Wrong* to *wringing* with reference to a coin cracked within the ring; cf. 2.2.448-9 below.

113-14 In both Q. and F. the words **My Lord** occur at the beginning of l. 114. F. omits **almost** and **holy** which ruins the meter. The words **My Lord** certainly belong at the close of l. 113; they have been shifted by the printers of Q. and F. for typographical convenience, l. 113 being too long for them to come at the end.

115 Q. *fprings*; Q.F. **fpringes**. The Q. printer has carelessly dropped the *e* which is necessary for the meter.

117 This line lacks a foot in both Q. and F. Various attempts have been made to correct the meter by inserting a word or phrase; perhaps the most absurd is that of Van Dam who reads *holy blazes*. Possibly Shakespeare meant a long pause in the admonition of Polonius such as is indicated by colon of F. The Q. text should stand. The F. *Gives* is a characteristic of this phrase of **Lends**.

- Euen in their promife, as it is a making
 120 You muft not take for fire, from this time
 Be fomething fcanter of your maiden prefence
 Set your intreatments at a higher rate
 Then a commaund to parle; for Lord *Hamlet*,
 Belieue fo much in him that he is young,
 And with a larger teder may he walke
 Then may be giuen you: in fewe *Ophelia*,
 Doe not belieue his vowes, for they are brokers
 Not of thát die which their inueftments howe
 But meere implorators of vnholly fuites
 130 Breathing like fanctified and pious bawds
 The better to beguile: this is for all,
 I would not in plaine tearmes from this time forth
 Haue you fo flaunder any moment leaure
 As to giue words or talke with the Lord *Hamlet*,
 Looke too't I charge you, come your wayes.
Ophe. I fhall obey my Lord. *Exeunt.*

I. iv.) *Enter Hamlet, Horatio and Marcellus.*

Ham. The ayre bites fhroudly, it is very colde.

Hora. It is a nipping, and an eager ayre.

- 120 F. attempts to emend the apparently defective meter of this line by appending *Daughter*. This is unnecessary as fire in Shakespeare is often a dissyllable. So is *parle* in l. 123 below which F. spells *parley*. Wilson sees here a scribe's repetition due to F. *Daughter* in l. 117. F. needlessly alters from *this time* to *For this time*.
 125 Q. *tider*, F. *tether*. Shakespeare probably wrote *teder*, a variant spelling. The word does not occur elsewhere in Shakespeare.
 128 F. *of the eye*, an apparent mishearing or misprinting of *eye* for *dye*, a variant of Q. *die*.
 129 Q. *implorators*, a mere misprint. F. *implorators*.
 130 Roth Q. and F. read *bonds*. Theobald's emendation *bawds* has been generally accepted. A misreading of *bawds*, or *bands* as *bonds* in Elizabethan script would be very easy. Wilson (*Cambridge Hamlet*, p. 156) declares that the emendation makes Polonius say the opposite of what he intends, and asks "what is a pious bawd?" The answer, of course, is a bawd who feigns piety, like the procuress in Hogarth's "Harlot's Progress."
 131 Q. *beguide*, an *l* misread as *d*; cf. 1.2.257. F. correctly *beguile*.

Act 1, scene 4

- 1 F. *is it very cold?* Probably an exclamation mark in the ms. that lay before the scribe of F. was taken as a question mark and he rearranged the order of the words to make an interrogative sentence. Wilson calls it a compositor's slip.

^a Q. omits *a* before *nipping*, supplied from F.

Ham. What houre now?

Hora. I thinke it lackes of twelfe.

Mar. No, it is ftrooke.

Hora. Indeede; I heard it not, it then drawes neere the feason,
Wherein the spirit held his wont to walke. *A florish of trumpets*
What does this meane my Lord? *and 2. peeces goes of.*

Ham. The King doth wake to night and takes his rowfe,
Keepes waffells and the fwaggring vp-fpring reeles:
10 And as he draines his drafts of Rennish downe,
The kettle drumme, and trumpet, thus bray out
The triumph of his pledge.

Hora. Is it a custome?

Ham. I marry ift,
But to my minde, though I am natie heere
And to the manner borne, it is a custome
More honourd in the breach, then the obferuance.
This heauy headed reuele eaft and weft
Makes vs traduft, and taxed of other nations,
They clip vs drunkards, and with Swinish phrafe
20 Soyle our addition, and indeede it takes
From our atchieuements, though perform'd at height
The pith and marrow of our attribute,
So oft it chaunces in particuler men,
That for fome vicious mole of nature in them
As in their birth wherein they are not guilty,
(Since nature cannot choofe his origin)
By the ore-grow'th of fome complexion

5 F. *then it*, inversion by scribe or compositor.

8 Q. has a period after *rouse*; F. rightly a comma.

9 The plural form of F. *waffells* seems to correspond better to Shakespeare's use of this word. In the singular, as in *Mac.*, 1.7.64, it means liquor. The only other instance of Shakespeare's use of the singular is 2 *K.H.IV.*, 1.2.179 where it is an adjective. On the other hand in *L.L.L.*, 5.2.318 and *A. and C.*, 1.4.56 (spelled *Vaffailes*) it means as here "revels." The Q. printer seems to have dropped the final *s*.

17-38 Omitted in F. Probably a cut for theatrical reasons; see Introduction, p. 51.

17 Q. *reuedle*. A possible Shakespearean spelling *reuele* seems to have misled the Q. printer.

18 Q. *taxed*. The word is a monosyllable. The omission of the apostrophe may be due to Shakespeare himself.

27 Q. *their*. Pope's emendation *the* has been generally accepted. Probably the printer's error is due to *their* two lines above.

Q. *complexion*. Wilson suggests that Shakespeare vacillated between the terminations *-xion* (cf. *fixion*, *Ham.*, 2.2.578) and *-ccion*. But he spells this

- Oft breaking downe the pales and forts of reafon,
 Or by fome habit, that too much ore-leauens
 30 The forme of plaufiue manners, that thefe men
 Carrying I fay the ftamp of one defect
 Being Natures liuery, or Fortunes ftarre,
 His vertues els be they as pure as grace,
 As infinite as man may vndergoe,
 Shall in the generall cenfure take corruption
 From that particuler fault: the dram of euile
 Doth all the noble fubftance often dout
 To his owne fcandle.

Enter Ghoft.

Hora. Looke my Lord it comes.

- Ham.* Angels and Minifters of grace defend vs:
 40 Be thou a fpirit of health, or goblin damn'd,
 Bring with thee ayres from heauen, or blafts from hell,
 Be thy intents wicked, or charitable,
 Thou com'ft in fuch a queftionable fhape,
 That I will fpeake to thee, Ile call thee *Hamlet*,
 King, father, royall Dane, ô anfwere mee,
 Let me not burft in ignorance, but tell
 Why thy canoniz'd bones heard in death

word *complexion* in *V. and A.*, l. 216, in *Temp.*, 1.1.32 and repeatedly in the Q. of *L.L.L.* The quaint spelling here seems to be a printer's misreading of his copy.

- 33 Pope altered His of Q. to *Their* to agree with its antecedent *these men*, l. 30. He has been followed by many editors, but it is not the duty of an editor to modernize or correct Shakespeare's grammar. ⁶
- 36-7 A famous crux to which Furness devotes about six pages of notes. Probably Shakespeare wrote *euil(e)*—this spelling occurs in *L.L.L.*(Q.), 5.2.105, *A. and C.*, 1.4.11; *Cym.*, 5.5.60; and *Lucrece*, ll. 87, 846, 972, 1250, 1515, all texts probably printed from his ms. The Q. printer misread the *u* as *e* and set up *eaile* corrected to *eale*; cf. 2.2.628 where Q. has *deale* for the Shakespearean *deule* (F. *Diuell*). If Shakespeare wrote *ofen* (often) which is quite possible, it might easily be misread *of a*. His *dout* would then be "corrected" by the printer to *doubt* to show that the word was, he believed, a noun. The misprint *doubts* for *douts* occurs in 4.7.192 where F. reads *doubts* = *douts* (puts out) for Q. *drownes*.

Presumably Shakespeare wrote something like
the dram of euile

Doth all the noble substance ofen dout

The sense of the whole passage would be: the dram (small bit) of evil often expels the noble substance (the true essence) to the scandal, in the general censure (public opinion), of the noble substance itself. Shakespeare may have had in mind a verse of Ecclesiastes x, 1. "Dead flies cause to stinke, and putrifie the ointment of the apoticarie: so doeth a little folie him that is in estimation for wisdom, and for glorie." (Genevan version.)

- Haue burft their cerements? why the Sepulcher,
Wherein we faw thee quietly interr'd
50 Hath op't his ponderous and marble iawes,
To caft thee vp againe? what may this meane
That thou dead corfe, againe in compleat fteele
Reuifites thus the glimfes of the Moone,
Making night hideous, and we fooles of nature
So horridly to flake our difpofition
[With thoughts beyond the reaches of our foules,
(Say why is this, wherefore, what fhould we doe? Beckins.
Hora. It beckins you to goe away with it
As if it fome impartment did defire
60 To you alone.
Mar. Looke with what curteous action
It waues you to a more remoued ground,
But doe not goe with it.
• Hora. No, by no meanes.
Ham. It will not fpeake, then I will followe it.
Hora. Doe not my Lord.
Ham. Why what fhould be the feare,
I doe not fet my life at a pinnes fee,
And for my foule, what can it doe to that
Being a thing immortall as it felfe;
It waues me forth againe, Ile followe it.
Hora. What if it tempt you toward the flood my Lord,

- 49 F. *enurn'd* has been followed by most editors in the modernized form *inurn'd*. N.E.D. gives no instance of this word before Ken (1711) and Pope, both of whom read Shakespeare in the F. text and borrowed the word therefrom. The earliest instance in the collection being made for the *Early English Modern Dictionary* at the University of Michigan is in the Duchess of Newcastle's *Grounds of Natural Philosophy*, 1688. On the other hand *interr'd* occurs repeatedly in Shakespeare—*K.H.V.*, 4.1.312; *R. and J.*, 5.3.87; *J.C.*, 3.2.81; *Cym.*, 4.2.401. Wilson thinks *enurn'd* was 'Shakespeare's word; that the reporter substituted the more usual *interr'd* for it as in Q., and that the agreement of Q. and Q. is due to the fact that the Q. printer, puzzled by *enurn'd*, consulted a printed copy of Q. and followed its spelling. This seems a rather far-fetched defense of the F. reading.
- 51 The question mark after *again*e, broken in Hunt., is plain in Folger and Eliz. Club as in F.
- 62 F. *wafts*, a modernization as in l. 79, but in l. 68 F. retains the older form *waues*.
- 69 The word *Lord* is missing at the end of this line in the Hunt. and Eliz. Club copies of Q. Since the Hunt. Q. has been most frequently cited and reproduced—as in the Griggs photolithographic facsimile—it has been stated by the Cambridge editors and others that the word is missing in Q. The Folger copy, however, contains the word as do all the 1605 Qq. Its absence

- 70 Or to the dreadfull fomme of the cleefe
 That beetles ore his bafe into the fea,
 And there affume fome other horrible forme
 Which might deprive your foueraigntie of reafon,
 And draw you into madnes, thinke of it,
 The very place puts toyes of defperation
 Without more motiue, into euery braine
 That looks fo many fadoms to the fea
 And heares it rore beneath.
Ham. It waxes me ftill,
 Goe on, Ile followe thee.
- 80 *Mar.* You fhall not goe my Lord.
Ham. Hold of your hands.
Hora. Be rul'd, you fhall not goe.
Ham. My fate cries out
 And makes each petty arture in this body.
 As hardy as the Nemean Lyons nerue;
 Still am I cald, vnhand me Gentlemen,
 By heauen Ile make a ghofth of him that lets me,
 I lay away, goe on, Ile followe thee. *Exit Ghofth and Hamlet.*

in two copies is due to an overlapping "frisket." (Wilson, *MS. of Hamlet*, pp. 93-4.)

- 70 *Q. fomnet*, which F. corrupts to *Sonnet*. The word occurs only three times in Shakespeare, and his script seems to have puzzled the printers each time; probably his double *mm*'s were a minim short. Thus in *Ham.*, 3.3.18 both Q. and F. read *somnet* as here; in *Lear*, 4.6.57 the Qq. read *fommons* and *fummons*, F. *Sonnet*. The spelling, *sommet*, a sixteenth century variant of *summit*, was probably Shakespeare's and a "minim error" on his part misled the Q. printer.
- Q. cleefe*—F. *Cliffes* Q. probably represents Shakespeare's spelling; cf. *Q. spleet* for *split* 3.2.12 and *weeke* for *wick* 4.7.116 below.
- 71 *Q. beetles* (*e* misread as *t*); F. *beetles*. The adjective *beetle-browed* was common in Shakespeare's day, although it does not appear in his work. The noun, *beetle-brow* appears in *R. and J.*, 1.4.32, and Shakespeare seems to have coined the verb *to beetle* from these phrases. No other instance of this verb appears in *N.E.D.* until the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when it was borrowed from Shakespeare by various writers.
- 72 F. *assumes*, an attempted correction of Shakespeare's grammar.
- 75-8 These lines are omitted in F. Delius and Schücking (*Berichte*, etc., Vol. 83) suggest that this cut may have been made after the longer description of a beetling cliff (*Lear*, 4.6.11-26) had been written. This would seem to imply that Shakespeare himself struck out these lines in the ms. on which F. depends, a hypothesis that is, at the least, improbable. Wilson thinks they were accidentally omitted either by the scribe or the F. printer.
- 82 *Q. arture*, F. *Artire*, variant sixteenth century spellings of artery.
- 83 *Q. Nemeon* shows the *o* for *a* misprint. F. spells *Nemian*.
- 84 *Q.* has no punctuation at end of this line; F. has a colon. A comma suffices.

Hora. He waxes desperate with imagination.

Mar. Lets followe, tis not fit thus to obey him.

Hora. Haue after, to what issue will this come?

90 *Mar.* Something is rotten in the state of Denmarke.

Hora. Heauen will direct it.

Mar. Nay lets follow him. *Exeunt.*

I. v. *Enter Ghost, and Hamlet.*

Ham. Whether wilt thou leade me, speake, Ile goe no further.

Ghost. Marke me.

Ham. I will.

Ghost. My houre is almost come

When I to fulphrous and tormenting flames

Must render vp my selfe.

Ham. Alas poore Ghost.

Ghost. Pitty me not, but lend thy serious hearing
To what I shall unfold.

Ham. Speake, I am bound to heare.

Ghost. So art thou to reuenge, when thou shalt heare. |

Ham. What?

Ghost. I am thy fathers spirit,

10 Doomed for a certaine tearme to walke the night,

And for the day confind to fast in fires,

Till the foule crimes done in my dayes of nature

Are burnt and purg'd away: but that I am forbid

To tell the secrets of my prison house,

I could a tale unfold whose lightest word

Would harrow vp thy foule, freeze thy young blood,

Make thy two eyes like stars start from their spheres,

Thy knotted and combined locks to part,

-
- 87 Q. *imagination* probably a careless omission of *in*at by the Q. printer, although Shakespeare may have written the word in a contracted form which the printer misunderstood.

Act I, scene 5

- 1 Q. *whether* an old spelling of *whither*. If Shakespeare wrote *whither* and failed, as often, to dot the *i*, the Q. printer naturally set up *whether*. F. reads *where*.
- 3 Q. *sulphrus*, a contracted form. Shakespeare spelled the word variously, but apparently always *ous* in the last syllable. F. *sulphurous*.
- 7 As in 1.4.69 a "frisket error" has struck out the final *e* in *heare* at the end of this long line in the Hunt. and Eliz. Club Qq. It appears, however, in Folger. Cf. note on 1.4.69 above.
- 18 F. *knotty*. Greg (*Emend.*, p. 64) suggests "it is just possible that Shakespeare felt the repeated participles to be clumsy." To be convincing some

- And each particuler haire to stand an end,
 20 Like quills vpon the fretfull Porpentine,
 But this eternall blazon must not be
 To eares of flesh and blood, lift, lift, ô lift:
 If thou did'it euer thy deare father loue.
Ham. O God.
Ghoft. Reuenge his foule, and most vnnaturall murther.
Ham. Murther?
Ghoft. Murther most foule, as in the best it is,
 But this most foule, ftrange and vnnaturall.
Ham. Haft me to know't, that I with wings as swift
 30 As meditation, or the thoughts of loue
May fweepe to my reuenge.
Ghoft. I find thee apt,
 And duller should'it thou be then the fat weede
 That rootes it felfe in ease on *Lethe* wharffe,

proof should be shown of Shakespeare's dislike of such a repetition. The agreement of Q.₁ with Q. here determines the text.

- 20 Q. *fearful* makes good sense, but the agreement of Q.₁ with F. here points to *fretfull* as the spoken word before and after Q. was printed. *Fretfull* applied to the porcupine with quills erect seems the more significant word. Wilson (*Cambridge Hamlet*, p. 160) states that such a figure, the crest of the Sidney family, must have been seen by Shakespeare as a boy in a hospital at Warwick. In the Cranach *Hamlet* he suggests that Shakespeare may have written *freatfull*; which was set up *freaefull* (e for t misprint) and "corrected" to *fearfull*.
 22 F. *list Hamlet, oh list*, which ruins the meter. It is plainly an actor's alteration.
 24 F. *Heauen*, the scribe's "purgation" of the text.
 26 The question mark after *Murther* is supplied from F.
 29 F. *Hast, hast me*, another impairment of the meter, probably one of many cases of the actor's exaggerating Hamlet's characteristic trick of repetition. F. has *know it* for *know't* and carelessly omits I in this line.
 30 Some editors have cavilled at the phrase *swift as meditation*. One of the latest is Kellner (*op. cit.*, p. 79) who would read *volitation*. But the first instance of this word cited in *N.E.D.* is from Sir Thomas Browne, 1646, who may well have coined the word. On the other hand the appearance of the phrase *swifter than meditation* in the Prologue to *Wily Beguiled*, 1606, shows a borrowing from *Hamlet*.
 33 F. *rots*, followed by many editors. In the Cranach *Hamlet* Wilson followed Q.; in the Cambridge he reverts to F. and cites as a parallel:

*Like to a vagabond flag vpon the stream,
 Goes to and back, lackeying the varying tide,
 To rot itself with motion.*

—A. and C., 1.4.45-7

But there is a wide difference between a "flag" (reed) waving and rotting in motion and a dull weed which "roots itself in ease." The agreement of

Would'ft thou not fturre in this; now *Hamlet* heare,
 Tis giuen out, that fleeping in my Orchard,
 A Serpent ftung me, fo the whole eare of Denmarke
 Is by a forged proceffe of my death
 Ranckely abufde: but knowe thou noble Youth,
 The Serpent that did ftung thy fathers life
 40 Now weares his Crowne.

Ham. O my propheticke foule! my Vncle?

Ghoft. I that inceftuous, that adulterate beaft,
 With witchcraft of his wits, with trayterous gifts,
 O wicked wit, and giftes that haue the power
 So to feduce; wonne to his flamefull luft
 The will of my moft feeming vertuous Queene;
 O *Hamlet*, what a falling off was there
 From me whofe loue was of that dignitie
 That it went hand in hand, euen with the vowe
 50 I made to her in marriage, and to decline
 Vppon a wretch whofe naturall gifts were poore,
 To thofe of mine;
 But vertue as it neuer will be mooued,
 Though lewdneffe court it in a fhape of heauen

Q.₁ with Q. here should determine the text. Wilson ascribes this agreement to the Q. printer consulting Q.₁; but why should he consult Q.₁ about this simple and familiar word?

35 F. *It's given*, a scribal paraphrase.

41 Both Q. and F. have a question mark after *Uncle*; Q.₁ an exclamation mark. Many editors follow Q.₁. It is possible that we have here the common Elizabethan confusion of the two signs. *Hamlet's* "prophetic soul" has already pointed to the murderer. On the whole it seems better to retain the punctuation of QF. and to regard the phrase as a rhetorical question.

F. *mine* for Q. *my*.

43 QF. *wits*. Many editors, including Wilson, accept Pope's emendation *wit*. This is no doubt what Shakespeare intended to write as is shown by the repetition of *wit* and *giftes* in the next line. The word *wits* in Elizabethan English would naturally mean the five wits. The agreement of Q. and F. here may show that Shakespeare wrote *wits* influenced by the plural *gifts* already in his mind.

F. *hath* for Q. *with*, a scribal error.

45 F. *to fo this*, a compositor's error.

47 The a missing in Q. is supplied from F.

52-3 Both Q. and F. print *To those . . . mooued* (F. *moued*) as one line. It probably stood so in Shakespeare's ms.; but he hardly meant to write a line of seven feet with a possible feminine ending—*mooued* = *movéd*. Probably he expected the actor to pause after *mine* as in the short l. 57 below.

- So Lust though to a radiant Angell linckt,
 Will fate it felse in a celestially bed
 And pray on garbage.
 But fofte, me thinkes I fent the morning ayre,
 Briefe let me be; sleeping within my Orchard,
 60 My custome alwayes of the afternoone,
 Vpon my fecure houre, thy Vncle stole
 With iuyce of curfed Hebona in a viall,
 And in the porches of my eares did poure
 The leaprous diftilment, whose effect
 Holds fuch an enmitie with blood of man,
 That fwift as quickfiluer it courfes through
 The naturall gates and allies of the body,
 And with a fodaine vigour it doth poffet

- 55 Q. *but*, an evident misprint. Wilson suggests that the Q. printer accidentally dropped the *s* and set up *lut*, which was of course "corrected" to *but*. F. *Lust* is the true reading.
 Q. *Angle*; F. *Angell*, a common confusion of spelling.
 56 Q. *fort*. Here, as often, Shakespeare's *a*, open at the top, has been misread as *or*. F. *fate* gives the true reading.
 58 All three texts have *sent* (i.e. *scent*), probably Shakespeare's spelling, one not uncommon in his day.
 F. *Mornings*, a scribal error.
 59 F. *mine* for Q. *my*.
 60 F. *in* for Q. *of*, a modernization.
 62 Qq. *Hebona*; F. *Hebenon*. Greg (*Emend.*, p. 64) thinks that F. shows an intentional alteration by Shakespeare due to his having "come across a Greek accusative of *ἑβονας*. This seems unlikely; it is more probable that Shakespeare's open *a* was misread by the F. scribe as *on*. Marlowe (*Jew of Malta*, 3.4.97) speaks of "the juice of hebon" as a deadly poison. It seems certain that Shakespeare here was following literary tradition in using *hebon* as a name for the yew, then regarded as a poisonous tree. Two papers by Nicholson and Harrison (*New. Sh. Soc. Trans.*, 1880-1886) shows that the effects of yew-poisoning on the body were almost exactly those described in this speech as resulting from "the juice of Hebona." The Qq. spelling of *Hebona* is probably a mere literary flourish, Latinizing the name. The line would be better metrically with Marlowe's *hebon*, since *curfed* must be read as a dissyllable.
 63 F. *mine* for Q. *my*.
 64 Q. *leaprous*; F. *leaperous*. The F. form seems a change *metris causa*, but Shakespeare probably gave the *r* a syllabic value and pronounced *leaprous* as three syllables.
 68 Q. *poffesse*; F. correctly *poffet*. Wilson suggests that the final *t* of *posset* was misread and set up by the Q. printer as *s* giving *posses*, which he took to mean *possess* and spelled in his fashion *poffesse*.

- And curde like eager droppings into milke,
 70 The thin and wholfome blood; so did it mine,
 And a moft instant tetter barckt about
 Moft Lazerlike with vile and lothfome cruft
 All my fmooth body.
 Thus was I fleeping by a brothers hand,
 Of life, of Crowne, of Queene at once difpatcht,
 Cut off euen in the bloffomes of my finne,
 Vnhuzled, difappointed, vnanneld,
 No reckning made, but fent to my account
 With all my imperfections on my head,
 80 O horrible, ô horrible, moft horrible.
 If thou haft nature in thee beare it not,
 Let not the royall bed of Denmarke be
 A couch for luxury and damned inceft.
 But howfomeuer thou purfues this act,
 Taint not thy minde, nor let thy foule contriue
 Againft thy mother ought, leaue her to heauen,
 And to thofe thornes that in her bofome lodge
 To prick and fting her, fare thee well at once,
 The Gloworme fhewes the matine to be neere
 90 And gines to pale his vneffectuall fire,
 Adiew, adiew, adiew, remember me. *Exit.*

Ham. O all you hofte of heauen, ô earth, what els,
 And fhall I coupple hell, ô fie, hold, hold my hart,
 And you my finnowes, growe not infant old,

-
- 69 Q. *eager*; F. *Aygre*, variant spellings of the same word meaning "acid."
 F. probably shows a scribe's intention to correct the spelling.
- 71 Q. *barckt*; F. *bak'd*. Greg (*Emend.*, p. 61) suggests that the copy for
 F. had *barkt* which the printer misread *backt* and set up *bak'd*. Possibly
 the error goes back to the scribe, who was influenced by *crust* in the next
 line and substituted *bak'd* for the less familiar *barckt*.
- 75 F. and *Queene*, a scribal error.
- 77 Q. *vnanneld*, a misreading of the third *n* as *u*. F. *vnanneld*.
- 79 Q. prints *Withall* as one word. F. corrects; cf. l. 184 below.
- 84 Q. *howfomeuer*; F. *howfoeuer*, a modernization.
 F. *purfuest*, the scribe's "correction" of Shakespeare's grammar.
- 85 Q. *Tain't*; F. correctly *Taint*. Wilson thinks the Q. printer mistook the
 word for a contraction of *Tane* (taken) *it*.
- 91 For the third *adiew* in this line F. substitutes *Hamlet*; cf. l. 22 above.
 Here as there we have an actor's alteration which destroys the symbolic
 significance of the Ghost's triple farewell. The *Exit* is supplied from F.

- But beare me ftiffely vp; remember thee?
 I thou poore Ghoft whiles memory holds a feate
 In this distracted globe, remember thee?
 Yea, from the table of my memory
 Ile wipe away all triuiall fond records,
 100 { All fawes of bookes, all formes, all preffures paf
 That youth and obferuation coppied there,
 And thy commandement all alone fhall liue,
 Within the booke and volume of my braine
 Vnmixt with bafer matter, yes by heauen,
 O moft pernicious woman.
 O villaine, villaine, fmiling damned villaine,
 My tables, meet it is I fet it downe
 That one may fmile, and fmile, and be a villaine.
 At leaft I am fure it may be fo in Denmarke.
 110 { So Vncle, there you are, now to my word,
 It is adew, adew, remember me.
 I haue fworn't.

Enter Horatio, and Marcellus.

Hora. My Lord, my Lord.

Mar. Lord Hamlet.

Hora. Heauens fecure him.

Ham. So be it.

Mar. Illo, ho, ho, my Lord.

- 95 *Q.* *swiftly*; *F.* *ftiffely* followed by all editors. It seems the word required here, and a badly written *ftif(fe)ly* might be misread *swiftly*.
F. puts a question mark at the close of this line and at the close of l. 97. That this indicates the pronunciation of the actor appears from the agreement of *Q.* in l. 95; (l. 97 is lacking in *Q.*) and the context seems to demand this.
- 104 *F.* *Yes, yes by Heaven*:. The second *yes* spoils the meter and is, no doubt, the actor's trick of exaggerated repetition, as is the *F.* repetition of *my Tables*, l. 107 below.
- 104-5 *Q.* has a comma after *heauen* and a period after *woman*; *F.* has a colon after *Heauen* and an exclamation after *woman* showing the actor's practice. The light punctuation of *Q.* may well stand.
- 110 *QF.* word in the sense of motto; cf. *Pericles*, 2.1.14-27.
- 113 *Qq.* *Heauens*; *F.* *Heauen*, possibly an alteration for euphony.
- 114 *F.* gives *so be it* to Marcellus, an alteration for theatrical reasons.
- 115 *Illo, ho, ho, my Lord.* *Q.* gives these words to Marcellus; *F.* followed by many editors to Horatio. Probably Shakespeare wrote them for Marcellus but allowed them to be transferred to the more important role of Horatio. The change must have been made early as the corresponding speech in *Q.* is assigned to *Hor.*

- Ham. Hillo, ho, ho, boy; come bird, come.
 Mar. How ift my noble Lord?
 Hora. What newes my Lord?
 Ham. O, wonderfull.
 Hora. Good my Lord tell it.
 Ham. No, you will reueale it.
 120 Hora. Not I my Lord by heauen.
 Mar. Nor I my Lord.
 Ham. How fay you then, would hart of man once thinke it,
 But you'le be secreet.
 Both. I by heauen, my Lord.
 Ham. There's neuer a villaine, dwelling in all Denmarke
 But hee's an arrant knaue.
 Hora. There needes no Ghost my Lord, come from the graue
 To tell vs this.
 Ham. Why right, you are in the right,
 And fo without more circumftance at all
 I hold it fit that we fhake hands and part,
 You, as your bufines and defire fhall poynt you,
 130 For euery man hath bufines and defire
 Such as it is, and for my owne poore part
 I will goe pray.
 Hora. Thefe are but wilde and whurling words my Lord.

- 116 F. **ho, boy; come bird, come**; Q. *ho, boy come, and come*. F. is certainly right here since *boy* goes with what precedes and should be separated from what follows by some punctuation. Hamlet is here giving the falconer's call and it follows that **bird** is better than the Q. *and*. Wilson suggests a dropped *b* and a resulting *ird* naturally "corrected" to *and*.
 117 Q. *i'ft*; F. *ift*. The Q. printer put his apostrophe in the wrong place as often; the F. scribe, or printer, introduced a superfluous *t*.
 119 F. *you'l*. Here as often the F. contract form indicates the stage pronunciation.
 122 Q. heads this speech *Booth*, a mere misprint, and omits *my Lord* at the end of the line, which is required by the meter and supplied from F.
 123 Q. breaks this line into two parts ending **villaine**, and **Denmarke**. Q. and F. print as one line without punctuation.
 126 Q. **in the right**; F. *i' th'right*. The two forms are metrically equivalent. The F. scribe tends to contract such forms as in pronunciation.
 129 F. *defires*, a scribal alteration.
 132 Q. **I will goe pray**; F. *Looke you, Ile goe pray*. Most editors follow F. Wilson combines Q. and F. holding that Q. has dropped the first two words. Yet the Q. line is more rhythmical than the F. Perhaps the actor saying *Ile* for *I will* prefixed *Looke you* to fill out the line.
 133 F. *whurling*. N.E.D. *sub whirl*, 6, shows occasional contamination of usage in *whirl* and *hurl*.

Ham. I am forry they offend you, hartily,
Yes faith hartily.

Hora. There's no offence my Lord.

Ham. Yes by Saint *Patrick* but there is *Horatio*,
And much offence to, touching this vision heere,
It is an honest Ghost that let me tell you,
For your desire to knowe what is betweene vs
140 O'ermafter't as you may, and now good friends,
As you are friends, schollers, and fouldiers,
Giue me one poore request.

Hora. What ift my Lord, we will.

Ham. Neuer make knowne what you haue seene to night.

Both. My Lord we will not.

Ham. Nay but fwear't.

Hora. In faith my Lord not I.

Mar. Nor I my Lord in faith.

Ham. Vppon my fword.

Mar. We haue fworne my Lord already.

Ham. Indeede vppon my fword, indeed.

Ghost cries vnder the Stage.

Ghost. Swear.

150 *Ham.* Ha, ha, boy, say'tt thou so, art thou there trupenny?
Come on, you heare this fellowe in the Sellerige,
Consent to fwear.

Hora. Propose the oath my Lord.

Ham. Neuer to speake of this that you haue seene.
Swear by my fword.

Ghost. Swear.

134 Neither Q. nor F. has any punctuation after *you*; Q. has a semicolon.
A comma corresponds to Shakespeare's light punctuation.

136 For *Horatio* F. reads *my Lord*, a phrase caught by scribe or printer from
the last words of the preceding line.

137 The punctuation of F., a colon after *heere*, seems to show that the scribe
connected the phrase *touching . . . heere* with what precedes it. Most
editors place a period after *too* and construe *touching*, etc., with *It is an*
honest Ghost. This is probably correct; the light punctuation of Q. is
rather ambiguous.

140 Q. *Oremastret*; F. correctly *O'ermafter't*. Here as often the Q. printer
possibly following copy, omits or misplaces the apostrophe. Hereafter in
such cases the correct reading of F. will be given without comment.

143 Q. *i'ft*; F. *is't*.

145 Here as in l. 122 Q. has the speech-heading *Booth*.

150 For Q. *Ha, ha*, F. reads *Ah ha*, a scribal alteration.

151 F. *Come one you*, probably a printer's error.

153 There is no punctuation after *seene* in Q.; F. has a period.

- Ham.* *Hic, & vbiq*ue, then weelee shift our ground:
 Come hether Gentlemen
 And lay your hands againe vpon my sword,
 160 Swear by my sword
 Neuer to speake of this that you haue heard.
Ghost. Swear by his sword.
Ham. Well sayd olde Mole, can't worke i'th' earth so fast,
 A worthy Pioner, once more remouue good friends.
Hora. O day and night, but this is wondrous strange.
Ham. And therefore as a stranger giue it welcome,
 There are more things in heauen and earth *Horatio* ✓
 Then are dream't of in your philosophie,
 But come,
 Heere as before, neuer so helpe you mercy,
 170 How strange or odde fomere I beare my selfe,
 (As I perchance heereafter shall thinke meet
 To put an Anticke disposition on.)
 That you at such times feeling me, neuer shall

- 157 Qq. **our ground**; F. *for grownd*, a mere misprint.
 159-60 F. transposes these lines. Wilson thinks the change was made by the prompter.
 162 Q. adds the words **by his sword** to the Ghost's cry of **swear** in this line. F., followed by many editors, omits them. If the readings were reversed, one might suspect interpolation; but this is rare, if existent at all, in Q. The triple repetition of *swear*, like the triple *adieu* of the Ghost, is, perhaps, more impressive, but it is difficult to imagine the Q. printer inserting **by his sword** without the authority of his copy. It seems best to let the Q. text stand.
 163 Q. *it'h*; F. correctly *i'th'*.
 Qq. **earth**; F. *ground*, a needless change, perhaps due to a recollection of *ground* in l. 157.
 168 Q. **your**; F. *our*, probably a deliberate alteration by the scribe who failed to catch the generalizing sense of *your*.
 Both Q. and F. place the words *but* (F. *But*) *come* at the end of this line. Possibly Shakespeare did so, but evidently they belong in a line by themselves, followed by a pause while Hamlet prepares to administer the oath. Q. has no point; F. a comma after *come*.
 170-8 Q. places these lines in parenthesis; F. only ll. 171-2. Most editors simply drop the parenthesis. Wilson (*Cambridge Hamlet*) brackets ll. 170-2. It seems better to follow F. which brackets a clause that is clearly parenthetical and to assume that here as elsewhere the Q. printer bungled his marks.
 170 Q. *fo mere* (for *somere*); F. *fo ere*; cf. Q. *what someuer* 1.2.249, where F. reads *whatfoeuer*. Shakespeare often uses the old form with an *m*.
 171 Q. has an unnecessary comma after *meet*.
 173 Q. **times**; F. *time*. The change may have been made for euphony before the following *feeling*; but Q. is supported by Q.₁ and is more specific.

- With armes incombred thus, or this head shake,
 Or by pronouncing of some doubtfull phraze,
 As well, well, we knowe, or we could and if we would,
 Or if we list to speake, or there be and if they might,
 Or such ambiguous giuing out, to note
 That you knowe ought of me, this doe sweare,
 180 So grace and mercy at your most neede helpe you.
Ghost. Swear.
Ham. Rest, rest, perturbed spirit: so Gentlemen,
 With all my loue I doe commend me to you,
 And what so poore a man as *Hamlet* is,
 May doe t'expresse his loue and frending to you
 God willing shall not lack, let vs goe in together,
 And ftill your fingers on your lips I pray,
 190 The time is out of ioynt, o cursed spight
 That euer I was borne to fet it right.
 Nay come, lets goe together. *Exeunt.*

II. i. *Enter old Polonius, with his man Reynaldo.*

Pol. Giue him this money, and these notes *Reynaldo*.

Rey. I will my Lord.

- 174 *Q. or this head shake*; F. *or thus, head shake*. The scribe or printer of F. misunderstood the passage.
 176 *Q. well, well*; F. omits the second *well*, perhaps to normalize the meter.
 177 *Q. they might*; F. *there might*, a scribal error, repeating the preceding *there*.
 179 *Q. this doe sweare*; Q. and F. *this not to doe*. Evidently the prompter, followed by F. scribe, felt the need of a negative injunction at the close of this passage. Logically such is needed, but the sense is clear without it. Yet after this alteration the scribe or prompter, felt the need of the positive injunction and inserted *sweare* after *helpe you*.
 184 *Q. withall* as one word; cf. l. 79 above.

Act 2, scene 1

s.d.

Q. *Enter Corambis, and Montano.*

Q. *Enter old Polonius, with his man or two.*

F. *Enter Polonius, and Reynaldo.*

The s.d. in Q. probably preserves a trace of the original name of the man, i.e. *Montano*. In the process of revision Shakespeare decided to change that name as well as that of his master. The new name *Reynaldo* appears in l. 1. It is certain, however, that he did not indicate this change in the s.d., for *Reynaldo* could not have been misread *his man or two*. Possibly the ms. read *Polonius with his man, Montano*, the proper name being imperfectly cancelled, which the puzzled printer deciphered and set up as in Q.

- 1 F. *his* for Q. *this*, see note 1.1.164, above.

Pol. You shall doe meruiles wisely good *Reynaldo*,
Before you vifite him, to make inquire
Of his behaiour.

Rey. My Lord, I did intend it.

Pol. Mary well faid, very well faid; looke you fir,
Enquire me firft what Danskers are in Parris,
And how, and who, what meanes, and where they keepe,
10 What companie, at what expence, and finding
By this encompafment, and drift of queftion
That they doe know my fonne, come you more neerer
Then your perticuler demaunds will tuch it,
Take you as 'twere fome diftant knowledge of him,
As thus, I know his father, and his friends,
And in part him, doe you marke this *Reynaldo*?

Rey. I, very well my Lord.

Pol. And in part him, but you may fay, not well,
But yf't be he I meane, hee's very wilde,
Adicted fo and fo, and there put on him
20 What forgeries you please, marry none fo ranck
As may difhonour him, take heede of that,
But fir, fuch wanton, wild, and vfuall flips,
As are companions noted and moft knowne
To youth and libertie.

Rey. As gaming my Lord.

Pol. I, or drinking, fencing, fwearing,
Quarrelling, drabbing, you may goe fo far.

Rey. My Lord, that would difhonour him.

Pol. Fayth no, as you may feafon it in the charge.
You muft not put another scandell on him,
30 That he is open to incontinencie,
That's not my meaning, but breath his faults fo quently

3 *Q. meruiles* (marvellous) *wisely*. F. misprints *marvels* as a noun and puts a colon after *wisely*, quite altering the sense. Shakespeare may have omitted an *a* in the second syllable; the spelling *maruailles* (adverb) is found in *M.N.D.*, 3.1.2 and elsewhere. Shakespeare spelled the word variously and may have used here the *er* spelling in the first syllable, indistinguishable in pronunciation from *ar*.

4 F. *you* for Q. *to* and *inquiry*, thus altering the construction.

1., 18 Q. *t'were* and *y'fi*. F. correctly *'twere* and *if't*.

15 F. *And thus*, a scribal error, anticipating the *And* which begins the next line.

26 F. *drabbing*, an inverted *n*.

28 Q. *Fayth as you*; F. *Faith no, as you*. All editors follow F. It seems plain that here as often a word has been dropped by the Q. printer; the insertion of the F. *no* improves both sense and meter.

That they may feeme the taints of libertie,
The flash and out-breake of a fierie mind,
A fauagenes in vnreclaimed blood,
Of generall affault.

Key. But my good Lord.

Pol. Wherefore should you doe this?

Key. I my Lord, I would know that.

- Pol.* Marry fir, heer's my drift,
And I belieue it is a fetch of warrant,
You laying these flight fullies on my sonne
40 As 'twere a thing a little foyld i'th' working,
Marke you, your partie in conuerse, him you would found
Hauing euer seene in the prenominat crimes
The youth you breath of guiltie, be assur'd
He closes with you in this consequence,
Good fir, (or fo,) or friend, or gentleman,
According to the phraze, or the addition
Of man and country.
Key. Very good my Lord.
50 *Pol.* And then fir doos a this, a doos, what was I about to say?
By the masse I was about to say something,
Where did I leaue?
Key. At closes in the consequence.
At friend, or fo, and Gentleman.

- 34 F. reads *unreclaim'd*, which impairs the meter, and prints of **generall assault** as part of this line.
- 38 F. **fetch of warrant**, followed by most editors and probably correct. Shakespeare's writing of *warrant*, perhaps in a contract form *wrt* or *wart*, seems to have been frequently misread; *Ham.*, 3.4.6 as *wait*, *All's Well*, 3.5.65 as *write*. It is more likely that some contracted form of *warrant* was misread by the Q. printer as *wit* than that Shakespeare wrote *wit* and the F. scribe or printer altered it to *warrant*.
- 39 Q. *fallies*; F. *fulleyes*. Q. misreads *u* as *a*; cf. note on 1.2.129 above.
- 40 Q. *'twere*; F. *'twere*—see note on ll. 14, 18 above. Q. *with*; F. *i'th'*, probably correct. The Q. printer tends to fill out contract forms and has done so mistakenly here.
- 47 Q. *or the addition*; F. *and the Addition*. Shakespeare may have spelled the word *addition* and the Q. printer attempting to correct to *addition* got an *f* in by mistake. F. *and* for Q. *or* is an arbitrary alteration.
- 50 F. alters a . . . a of Q. to *he* . . . *He* and sets a needless question mark after *this*.
- 51 The phrase **By the masse** is wanting in F., probably cancelled to avoid the act against profaneness.
- 52 The second line of Reynaldo's speech is supplied from F. Three consecutive lines here 52, 53, 54 begin with **At**; the Q. printer accidentally omitted the second.

- Pol.* At clofes in the confequence, I marry,
He clofes thus, I know the gentleman,
I faw him yefterday, or th'other day,
Or then, or then, with fuch or fuch, and as you fay,
There was a gaming, there o'er-tooke in's rowfe,
There falling out at Tennis, or perchance
60 I faw him enter fuch a houfe of fale,
Videlizet, a brothell, or fo foorth, fee you now,
Your bait of falshood takes this carpe of truth,
And thus doe we of wifedome, and of reach,
With windlefles, and with affaies of bias,
By indirections find directions out,
So by my former lecture and aduife
Shall you my fonne; you haue me, haue you not?
Rey. My Lord, I haue.
Pol. God buy ye, far ye well.
70 *Rey.* Good my Lord.
Pol. Obferue his inclination in your felfe.
Rey. I fhall my Lord.
Pol. And let him ply his mufique.
Rey. Well my Lord. *Exit Rey.*

Enter Ophelia.

- Pol.* Farewell. How now *Ophelia*, whats the matter?
Oph. O my Lord, my Lord, I haue beene fo affrighted,
Pol. With what i'th name of God?
Ophe. My Lord, as I was fowing in my clofset,
Lord *Hamlet* with his doublet all vnbrac'd,
No hat ypon his head, his ftockins fouled,

- 55 *Q. clofes thus*; *F. clofes with you thus*. *F.* here repeats the phrase of *Polonius* in l. 44; *Q.* is better metrically; *F.* probably the scribe's addition.
56 *Q. th'other*; *F. tother*, variant forms. It is interesting to see that here *F.* offers the more colloquial.
58 *Q. gaming there, or tooke*, a double error in punctuation and spelling. *F.* corrects **gaming, there o'ertooke**. As usual *F.* has *he* for *Q. a*.
63 *Q. take*; *F. takes*. The *Q.* form might be defended by conſtruing *take* as an infinitive depending on *fee*; but it is more likely that the *Q.* printer dropped the final *s*.
F. Cape, probably the printer dropped the *r* in *carpe*.
69 *F. you . . . you* for *Q. ye . . . ye*.
75 *Q. O my Lord, my Lord*; *F. Alas my Lord*, poſſibly a normalization of the meter. *Q.* has a comma; *F.* a period at the end of this line.
76 *F. in the name of Heaven*, expanding the *Q.* contraction i'th and "purging" the text.
77 *F. Chamber*, followed by many editors, but it ſeems the arbitrary alteration of the ſcribe.
79 *F. ftockings*, modernizing *Shakespeare's* ſpelling.

80 Vngartred, and downe gyued to his ancle,
 Pale as his fhirt, his knees knocking each other,
 And with a looke fo pittious in purport
 As if he had been loofed out of hell
 To fpeake of horrors, he comes before me.

Pol. Mad for thy loue?

Oph. My lord I doe not know,
 But truly I doe feare it.

Pol. What faid he?

Oph. He tooke me by the wrift, and held me hard,
 Then goes he to the length of all his arme,
 And with his other hand thus ore his brow,

90 He falls to fuch perufall of my face
 As a would draw it, long ftayd he fo,
 At laft, a little fhaking of mine arme,
 And thrice his head thus wauing vp and downe,
 He raifd a figh fo pittious and profound
 As it did feeme to fhatter all his bulke,
 And end his beeing; that done, he lets me goe,
 And with his head ouer his fhoulder turn'd
 Hee feem'd to find his way without his eyes,
 For out adoores he went without theyr helpe,
 100 And to the laft bended their light on me.

Pol. Come, goe with mee, I will goe feeke the King,
 This is the very extacie of loue,
 Whofe violent propertie fordoos it felfe,
 And leades the will to desperat vndertakings
 As oft as any pafsion vnder heauen
 That dooes afflict our natures: I am forry,
 What, haue you giuen him any hard words of late?

Oph. No my good Lord, but as you did commaund
 I did repell his letters, and denied

110 His acceffe to me.

91 *F. he would.* See note on 1.1.43 above.

Q. has commas after *it*, l. 91, and *arme*, l. 92, the usual light punctuation
 of *Q.* *F.* has a period and a colon after *it* and *Arme*, respectively.

95 *F. That it did*, modernizing the syntax.

97 *F. fhoulders*, a scribal error.

99 *Q. F. helpe*, which seems the better reading. The *Q.* printer might easily
 misread a final *e* as *s*. Wilson defends *Q. helps* as an Elizabethan usage.

101 *F. omits Come*, a scribal or printer's error.

105 *Q. pafsions*; *F. paffion*. The singular form is required by the context.
 Here as elsewhere the *Q.* printer has added an unnecessary final *s*.

Pol. That hath made him mad.
I am forry, that with better heede and iudgement
I had not coted him, I fear'd he did but trifle
And meant to wrack thee, but beshrow my Ieloufie:
By heauen it is as proper to our age
To cast beyond our felues in our opinions,
As it is common for the younger fort
To lack difcretion; come, goe we to the King.
This must be knowne, which beeing kept clofe, might moue
More grieft to hide, then hate to vtter loue,
Come. *Excunt.*

II. ii. *Florish: Enter King and Queene, Rosencrans and
Guyldensterne.*

King. Welcome deere *Rosencrans*, and *Guyldensterne*,
Moreouer, that we much did long to see you,
The need we haue to vse you did prouoke

- 111 *F. speed*, probably a misreading of *h* as *fp*. Wilson thinks the alteration was made by the scribe who thought *coted* in the line below meant *outstripped* as in 2.2.330.
112 *Q. coted*; *F. quoted*, variants of the same word meaning *noted, marked*. *F. feare*, an *e* for final *d* error; cf. 1.1.121 and note above.
114 *Q. By heauen*; *F. It seemes*, a censor's correction.
120 *Q. Come*, wanting in *F*. If it appeared in *F*. and not in *Q*. one would be tempted to call it a prompter's addition, but it is hard to see how a prompter's addition could get into the copy for *Q*.

Act 2, scene 2
s.d.

Q. Rosencrans (and so throughout) *F. Rosincrane*. The familiar Danish name *Rosenkrantz* is variously spelled in the texts of *Hamlet*; *Q.* *Roffencraft*, *Q.* *Rosencraus* (*u* for *n*), *F.* *Rosincrane*, *Rosincrance*, and *Rofencrans*. The last form, presumably, is the one which Shakespeare meant to use; but the *Q*. printer has consistently set it up with an inverted *n* (i.e. *u*) in the last syllable. His error is corrected in this text without further notice.

The old Danish name of his companion, *Gyldenstjerne*, also appears in various spellings in the *Hamlet* texts: *Guyldensterne*, *Guildensterne*, *Gilderstone*, and *Guildenstone*. The spelling *Guyldensterne* will be followed throughout this text.

Huisinga (*Sh.J.B.*, Vol. 46, pp. 60 ff.) shows some reason to believe that Shakespeare may have found both names together on an engraved portrait of Tycho Brahe where they appear as among the ancestors of the famous astronomer, spelled *Rosenkrans* and *Guldensteren*.

F. adds the phrase *Cum alijs* to the s.d. It is unusual to find *F.* adding to the number of actors on the stage at one time. Cf. note on 1.2. s.d., but see s.d. after 5.1.240.

Our haftie fending, fomething haue you heard
 Of *Hamlets* transformation, fo I call it,
 Sith nor th'exterior, nor the inward man
 Refembles that it was, what it fhould be,
 More then his fathers death, that thus hath put him
 So much from th'vnderftanding of himfelfe

- 10 I cannot dreame of: I entreate you both
 That beeing of fo young dayes brought vp with him,
 And fith fo nabored to his youth and hauior,
 That you voutfafe your refte heere in our Court
 Some little time, fo by your companies
 To draw him on to pleafures, and to gather
 So much as from occafion you may gleane,
 Whether ought to vs vnknowne afflicts him thus,
 That open lyes within our remedie.

- Quee.* Good gentlemen, he hath much talkt of you,
 20 And fure I am, two men there is not liuing
 To whom he more adheres, if it will pleafe you
 To fhew vs fo much gentry and good will,
 As to expend your time with vs a while,
 For the fupply and profit of our hope,
 Your vifitation fhall receiue fuch thanks
 As fits a Kings remembrance.

Rof. Both your Maiefties
 Might by the foueraigne power you haue of vs,

- 5 *Q. fo call it*; F. *fo I call it*. If the pronoun is omitted the word *transformation* must be pronounced as five syllables. It is unusual for Shakespeare to treat such terminations as *-ion*, *-ean* as dissyllables within the line, although he frequently does so in the last foot. In view of this and of the *Q.* printer's tendency to omit words, it seems best to insert *I* from F.

- 6 *Q. Sith*; F. *Since*, modernization; cf. l. 12 below.

- 10 *Q. dreame*; F. *deeme*. The *Q.* reading is more idiomatic. F. probably a misprint; *r* accidentally dropped.

- 12 F. has a needless comma after *youth*. *Q. hauior*; F. *humour*, followed by many editors; but *humour* at this time was a rather slangy word not likely to be put in the mouth of Claudius. It is probably a misreading of copy by the F. printer.

- 16 *Q. occasion*; F. *Occasions*—something might be said for the F. reading; but *Q.* makes good sense.

- 17 This line has been accidentally omitted in F.

- 20 *Q. there is*; F. *there are*, a modernization to avoid what was coming to be thought bad grammar; but Shakespeare like most Elizabethans frequently used a singular verb with a plural subject. Wilson calls it a solecism due to the *Q.* printer.

- 21 F. has a period after *adheres*.

Put your dread pleasures more into commaund
Then to entreatie.

Guyl. But we both obey.

- 30 And heere giue vp our felues in the full bent,
To lay our seruice freely at your feete
To be commaunded.

King. Thanks *Rofencrans*, and gentle *Guyldensterne*.

Quee. Thanks *Guyldensterne*, and gentle *Rofencrans*.

And I befeech you instantly to vifite

My too much changed sonne, goe some of you

And bring these gentlemen where *Hamlet* is.

Guyl. Heauens make our preface and our practices
Pleasant and helpfull to him.

Quee. I Amen.

Exeunt Rof. and Guyl.

Enter Polonius.

- 40 *Pol.* Th'embassadors from *Norway* my good Lord,
Are ioyfully returnd.

King. Thou still hast been the father of good newes.

Pol. Haue I my Lord? I assure you, my good Liege

I hold my dutie as I hold my foule,

Both to my God, and to my gracious King;

And I doe thinke, or els this braine of mine

Hunts not the trayle of policie so sure

As it hath vfd to doe, that I haue found

The very cause of *Hamlets* lunacie:

- 50 *King.* O speake of that, that doe I long to heare

29 F. omits **But** before **we**. The scribe may have thought that the initial **But** gave a wrong turn to the following sentence.

31 F. *Seruices*. Possibly the scribe thought that the plural was needed here since the speaker refers to the double service of himself and his companion; but the plural form impairs the meter of the line.

36 F. prints as two short lines ending *Sonne* and *ye*.

37 F. *the* for Q. *these*. As often F. avoids the demonstrative.

39 F. omits **I**, i.e. *ay*. It is necessary to complete the meter.

43 Q. *I assure my good*; F. *Affure you, my good*. It seems likely that neither text represents the original. The Q. line is rough metrically; F. tries to normalize the meter by dropping *I*; but this word occurs in Q. It seems likely that the true reading is:

I assure you, my good Liege

and that the Q. printer carelessly dropped the *you*. Wilson follows F. believing that *you* was dropped by the printer and *I* inserted by the "corrector"; but this does not account for the presence of *I* in Q.

45 F. *one* for Q. *and*, misreading *a* as *o* and final *d* as *e*.

48 F. *I haue* for Q. *it hath*, an arbitrary alteration, possibly anticipating *I haue* later in the same line.

50 F. *that I do*, a scribe's or printer's inversion.

Pol. Giue frst admittance to th'embassadors,
My newes fhall be the fruite to that great feaft.

King. Thy felfe doe grace to them, and bring them in.
He tells me my deere *Gertrud* he hath found
The head and fource of all your fonnes diftemper.

Quee. I doubt it is no other but the maine
His fathers death, and our o're-haftie marriage.

Enter Embassadors.

King. Well, we fhall lift him, welcome my good friends,
Say *Valtemand*, what from our brother *Norway*?

- 60 *Val.* Moft faire returne of greetings and defires;
Vpon our frft, he fent out to fuppreffe
His Nephews leuies, which to him appeard
To be a preparation gainft the *Pollacke*,
But better lookt into, he truly found
It was againft your highnes, whereat greeu'd
That fo his ficknes, age, and impotence
Was falfly borne in hand, fends out arrefts
On *Fortinbraffe*, which he in breefe obeyes,
Receiues rebuke from *Norway*, and in fine,
70 Makes vow before his Vncle neuer more
To giue th'affay of Armes againft your Maieftie:
Whereon old *Norway* ouercome with ioy,
Giues him threefcore thoufand crownes in anuall fee,

- 52 *F. Newes* for *Q. fruite*, i.e. dessert. The scribe or printer repeats *newes* from earlier in the line.
- 54 *F. my sweet Queene*, that he for *Q. my deere Gerturd* he. *F.* is followed by many editors, but is most likely a paraphrase by the scribe, who may have been puzzled by the curious spelling of the Queen's name which occurs here for the first time in the text, although she appears as *Gertrude the Queene* in the s.d. before 1.2 in the *F.* text.
- 57 *Q.* omits o're before *hafty*, supplied from *F.* The *Q.* printer influenced perhaps by the similarity of sound between *our* and *o're* dropped the second of these words.
- s.d. *F. Enter Polonius, Voltumand and Cornelius.* Neither *Q.* nor *F.* has provided an exit for Polonius. Many editors insert it after l. 53. Possibly Shakespeare's intention was to send Polonius only to the stage door to summon the ambassadors.
- 58 *F.* omits *my*.
- 73 *F. three thousand* for *Q. threefcore thoufand* followed by most editors. *Q.*, which throughout this speech corresponds very closely to *F.* and was apparently set up from an actor's part reads *three thousand* and shows how the line was spoken. Wilson suggests that the prompter, preparing the part, struck out *score* as suggesting too large a sum. On the other hand a bare 3,000 crowns seems a small annual allowance for a prince about to levy war on Poland. It is perhaps better to retain the rather unmetrical

And his commifion to imploy thofe fouldiers
So leuied (as before) againft the *Pollacke*,
With an entreatie heerein further fhowne,
That it might pleafe you to giue quiet paffe
Through your dominions for this enterprife
On fuch regards of fafety and allowance
As therein are fet downe.

80 *King.* It likes vs well,
And at our more confidered time, wee'le read,
Anfwer, and thinke vpon this bufines:
Meane time, we thanke you for your well tooke labour,
Goe to your reft, at night weele feaft together,
Moft welcome home. *Exeunt Embaffadors.*

Pol. This bufines is well ended.
My Liege and Maddam, to expofultate
What maieftie fhould be, what dutie is,
Why day is day, night, night, and time is time,
Were nothing but to waft night, day, and time,
90 Therefore fince breuitie is the foule of wit,
And tediousnes the lymmes and outward florifhes,
I will be brieft, your noble fonne is mad:
Mad call I it, for to define true madnes,
What ift but to be nothing els but mad,
But let that goe.

Quee. More matter with leffe art.

Pol. Maddam, I fweare I vse no art at all,
That hee's mad tis true, tis true, tis pittie,
And pittie tis tis true, a foolifh figure,
But farewell it, for I will vse no art,
100 Mad let vs graunt him then, and now remaines
That we find out the caufe of this effect,
Or rather fay, the caufe of this defect.
For this effect defectiue comes by caufe:

line of Q. Q. has a blot, probably for a comma, after *fec*; Griggs has a period.

76 Q. *fhone*; F. *fhewne*, probably Shakespeare wrote *fhowne* as in l. 123 below and the Q. printer dropped the *w*.

78 F. *his* for Q. *this*, avoiding the demonstrative.

85 F. *very well*; *very* seems to be an actor's insertion; it appears also in Q.1.

89 Q. *waft*, cf. the spelling in 1.2.198 and *Haft* for *Hafte*, 1.5.29. F. reads *wafte*, a modernization.

90 Q. carelessly omits *fince*, supplied from F.

97 F. *he is* for Q. *hee's*, normalizing the meter.

98 F. *it is* for Q. *tis tis*, a modernization.

Thus it remains, and the remainder thus.
 Perpend,
 I haue a daughter, haue while she is mine,
 Who in her dutie and obedience, marke,
 Hath giuen me this, now gather and furnife,

The Letter.

- 110 *To the Celestiall and my foules Idoll, the most beautified Ophelia, that's an ill phrafe, a vile phrafe, beautified is a vile phrafe, but you fhall heare thus: in her excellent white bofome, these &c.*

Quee. Came this from *Hamlet* to her?

Pol. Good Maddam stay awhile, I will be faithfull,
 Doubt thou the starres are fire,
 Doubt that the Sunne doth moue, ✓
 Doubt truth to be a lyer,
 * But neuer doubt I loue.

- 120 *O deere Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers, I haue not art to reckon my grones, but that I loue thee best, ô most best belieue it, adew. Thine euermore most deere Lady, whilst this machine is to him.* Hamlet.

This in obedience hath my daughter showne me,
 And more aboue hath his folicitings

- 104 There is no punctuation after **thus** at the end of this line in Q. F. has a period followed by *Perpend* which Q. sets in a line by itself. The Q. printer tends to omit punctuation at the end of a line.

- 106 F. *whil'ft* for Q. **while**, probably a scribal alteration.

- 110-22 The Q. printer, probably puzzled by his copy has made a typographical mess of these lines. Instead of placing as F. does the s.d. **Letter** (F. *The Letter*) before the address: **To the celestial**, etc., he sets it in the margin opposite the rhymed passage beginning l. 116. He begins the letter in italics, continues these through the comment of Polonius, **that's an ill phrase**, etc., prints the rhymes in italics, and reverts to roman type for the prose of the letter which follows, italicizing only the two proper names. It seems best to follow the more consistent typography of F.

- 111-12 Q. **vile**; F. *vilde*, variant spellings.

- 112 Q. **heare: thus**; F. *heare these*. The Q. printer has misplaced the colon which belongs after **thus** when Polonius resumes his reading of the letter. The F. scribe seems to have misunderstood the passage and has altered **thus** to *these*, anticipating that word later in the line, and omitting any punctuation.

- 125 The Q. printer probably following copy sets the speech-heading **Pol.** before this line. F. omits it.

F. modernizes Q. **showne** to *shew'd*.

- 126 Q. misprints *about*, reading a final *e* as *t*. F. correctly **aboue**.
 F. drops the final *s* in **sollicitings**.

As they fell out by time, by meanes, and place,
All giuen to mine eare.

King. But how hath she receiu'd his loue?

Pol. What doe you thinke of me?

130 *King.* As of a man faithfull and honorable.

Pol. I would faine proue so, but what might you thinke

When I had feene this hote loue on the wing,

As I perceiu'd it (I muft tell you that)

Before my daughter told me, what might you,

Or my deere Maieftie your Queene heere thinke,

If I had playd the Deske, or Table booke,

Or giuen my hart a winking, mute and dumbe,

Or lookt vppon this loue with idle fight,

What might you thinke? no, I went round to worke,

140 And my young Miftris thus I did bespeake,

Lord Hamlet is a Prince out of thy ftar,

This muft not be: and then I prefcripts gaue her

That she should locke her felfe from his refort,

Admit no messengers, receiue no tokens,

Which done, she tooke the fruites of my aduife:

And he repell'd, a short tale to make,

137 For Q. a *working*. F. reads a **winking** followed by all editors but Van Dam and Wilson. Wilson explains the Q. text as meaning "the secret thoughts of the heart" and insists that **winking** taken with **mute** and **dumb** is a "case of sheer misunderstanding." But **winking** in this passage does not mean "sleeping" as Wilson interprets it, but rather "closing the eyes to," "conniving at"—cf. *Oth.*, 4.2.77, *Cym.*, 5.4.194, and *K.H.V.*, 2.2.55. There is a striking instance of this sense in the Bible (Acts xvii, 30): "the times of this ignorance God winked at." The graphical similarity between *winking* and *working* is such that the Q. printer may easily have misread his copy.

The phrase **mute and dumb** may either be construed with the subject I, or perhaps better taken as a predicate: "given my heart a wink to be mute and dumb." In either case the sense is much the same: The behavior which Polonius disclaims is that which a "well-taught waiting-woman" would have followed in this matter; such a one would have read in a book or taken a feigned nap (cf. *All Fools*, 2.1.282-5 and *Monsieur D'Olive*, 5.1.190-9). Wilson's interpretation "given my heart a mental operation to be silent" seems very awkward.

The comma after **winking** is supplied from F.

142 Q. **prescripts**; F. *Precepts*, followed by some editors, but it would seem that the rather rare *prescripts* (cf. *A. and C.*, 3.8.5) has been altered in F. to the more familiar *precepts*.

143 Q. *her refort*; F. **his Refort**. The Q. printer repeats *her* from the same word earlier in the line.

146 Q. **repell'd**; F. *repulsed*, followed by many editors. It is probably an F. alteration *metris causa*; *repell* is the word used by Ophelia in this connec-

- Fell into a sadnes, then into a fast,
 Thence to a watch, thence into a weakenes,
 Thence to a lightnes and by this declension,
 150 Into the madnes wherein now he raues,
 And all we mourne for.
King. Doe you thinke 'tis this?
Quee. It may be, very like.
Pol. Hath there been such a time, I would faine know that,
 That I haue positiuely faid, tis so,
 When it proou'd otherwise?
King. Not that I know.
Pol. Take this, from this, if this be otherwise;
 If circumstances leade me, I will finde
 Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeede
 Within the Center.
King. How may we try it further?
 160 *Pol.* You know sometimes he walkes foure houres together
 Heere in the Lobby.
Quee. So he dooes indeede.
Pol. At such a time, Ile loofe my daughter to him,
 Be you and I behind an Arras then,
 Marke the encounter, if he loue her not,
 And be not from his reason false thereon
 Let me be no afsistant for a ftate
 But keepe a farme and carters.

tion, 2.1.109. An examination of the speeches of Polonius in the Q. text seems to show that Shakespeare was not always careful to give him normal ten-syllable lines. The period after *repulsed* in F. destroys the syntax.

- 148 Q. *wath*, a dropped letter. F. correctly **Watch**.
 149 Q. omits **a**, supplied from F.
 150 F. *whereon*, a scribal alteration.
 151 F. *waile*, an arbitrary alteration or paraphrase.
 Q. omits **tis**, supplied from F. Something seems to have distracted the attention of the Q. printer here; three omissions in four lines is above his average of error.
 152 F. *likely*, followed by most editors; but Q. gives good sense. The change of Q. *like* to the adverbial *likely* is characteristic of F.; cf. note on 1.1.175 above. There is no punctuation after *be* in either Q. or F.; but a comma is wanted, in which case **very like** might be taken as an exclamation *very probable*. Q. has no point after *like*; the period comes from F.
 153 F. *I'de*, altered spelling to indicate monosyllabic pronunciation.
 155 The period after **know**, wanting in Q., is supplied from F.
 156 Q. has a comma after the first **this**, perhaps to indicate a brief pause for the actor's gesture. F. has no punctuation here.
 161 F. *ha's* for Q. **dooes**, probably a scribal error.
 167 F. *And* for Q. **But**, a scribal alteration.

King. We will try it.

Enter Hamlet.

Quee. But looke where fadly the poore wretch comes reading.

Pol. Away, I doe befeech you both away,
170 Ile bord him prefently, oh giue me leaue, *Exit King and Queene.*
How does my good Lord Hamlet?

Ham. Well, God a mercy.

Pol. Doe you knowe me my Lord?

Ham. Excellent well, you are a Fifthmonger.

Pol. Not I my Lord.

Ham. Then I would you were fo honeft a man.

Pol. Honeft my Lord?

Ham. I fir to be honeft as this world goes,
Is to be one man pickt out of tenne thoufand.

180 Pol. That's very true my Lord.

Ham. For if the funne breede maggots in a dead dogge, be-
ing a good kifsing carrion. Haue you a daughter?

168 s.d. Q. *Enter Hamlet*; F. *Enter Hamlet reading on a book*, a good illustration of the fuller s.d. of F.

169 Q. places the s.d. *Exit King and Queene* after *away* at the end of this line; F. after *prefently*, thus filling out a line in the narrow column of F. The s.d. plainly belongs after *give me leaue*, a polite phrase which Polonius addresses to the departing royalties. Many modern editors following the typography of F. take it as addressed to Hamlet.

174 F. *Excellent, excellent*, another instance of the actor's exaggeration of Hamlet's trick of repetition; here it spoils the meter. The same exaggeration shows itself in some speeches by Polonius; see l. 190 below.

F. *y'are*, indicating the pronunciation.

177 Q. has a period after *Lord*; the question mark is supplied from F.

179 F. *two thousand*, a scribal alteration.

182 Both Q. and F. read *a good kissing carrion*. Many editors accept Warburton's ingenious emendation *a God* (i.e. the Sun God) referring to the old belief in spontaneous generation under the sun's rays—*maggots in a dead dogge*. The argument against this emendation that if Shakespeare meant *God* he would have written the word with a capital has no force; in *V. and A.* the word occurs five times and always with a lower case *g*. In *Lucrece* on the other hand, printed like *V. and A.* from Shakespeare's ms., the word *God* or *Gods*, occurring six times, is regularly spelled with a capital. There was constant confusion in Elizabethan spelling between *god* and *good*, cf. 5.2.355 below, but Wilson (*Cambridge Hamlet*, p. 172) notes that *good* is more often spelled *god* than vice versa. It is hard to see, however, why if Shakespeare wrote *god*, both the Q. printer and the F. scribe should have read *good*. If we take *kissing* as a verbal noun *good kissing* = good to kiss, kissable, in an ironic sense; this gives an acceptable meaning to the original text. It is, perhaps, better to retain the original and note Warburton's "noble emendation," which gives a sense at once more imaginative and in close accord with the science of Shakespeare's day.

Pol. I haue my Lord.

Ham. Let her not walke i'th Sunne, conception is a blefsing, but as your daughter may conceaue, friend looke to't.

Pol. How fay you by that, ftill harping on my daughter, yet
190 hee knewe me not at firft, a fayd I was a Fifhmonger, a is farre gone, and truly in my youth, I fuffred much extremity for loue, very neere this. Ile fpeake to him againe. What doe you reade my Lord?

Ham. Words, words, words.

Pol. What is the matter my Lord?

Ham. Betweene who?

Pol. I meane the matter that you reade my Lord.

Ham. Slaunders fir; for the fatericall rogue fayes heere,
200 that old men haue gray beards, that their faces are wrinckled, their eyes purging thick Amber, & plumbtree gum, & that they haue a plentifull lacke of wit, together with moft weake hams, all which fir though I moft powerfully and potentlie Belieue, yet I hold it not honefty to haue it thus fet downe, for your felfe fir fhall growe old as I am: if like a Crab you could goe backward.

Pol. Though this be madneffe, yet there is method in't, will you walke out of the ayre my Lord?

210 *Ham.* Into my graue.

185-7 Q. prints the two lines as verse, beginning the second with **But**. The printer was probably following copy, but the passage is, of course, prose as printed in F.

186 F. inserts *not* before **as your**, and is followed by most editors. Wilson thinks the Q. text is more in Hamlet's ironic fashion and suggests that *not* was inserted by the prompter to make the point plainer. Retaining Q. one must suppose Hamlet's speech; *as your daughter*, etc. to be a suggestion rather than the negative statement of F.

190 F. *he* for Q. a twice in this line. F. repeats the phrase **farre gone**.

193 Q. has a period after **Lord**; F. rightly a question mark.

198 F. *meane* for Q. **reade**. The scribe, or printer, repeats the word occurring earlier in the line.

199 F. *slaue* for Q. **rogue**, an arbitrary alteration.

202 F. *locke*, an *o* for *a* misprint.

204-5 F. *you your felfe Sir, should be*, followed by many editors, but F. shows signs of editorial "correction": *should* for Q. **fhall** to agree with the following **could**, and *be* for Q. **growe**. It is possible that the F. *you* before **your** replaces a word dropped by the Q. printer but it does not seem necessary to restore it to the text.

207-9; 211-19 F. prints these speeches of Polonius as fourteen short lines of verse. This is due to the necessity of filling out a page; they occur at the bottom of the second column of p. 261 in F.

Pol. Indeeede that's out of the ayre; how pregnant sometimes his replies are, a happines that often madnesse hits on, which reason and Sanitie could not so prosperously be deliuered of. I will leaue him and fodainely contriue the meanes of meeting betweene him and my daughter. My Lord, I will take my leaue of you.

220 *Ham.* You cannot Sir take from mee any thing that I will not more willingly part withall: except my life, except my life, except my life. *Enter Guyldersterne, and Rofencrans.*

Pol. Fare you well my Lord.

Ham. These tedious old fooles.

Pol. You goe to seeke the Lord *Hamlet*, there he is.

Rof. God faue you fir.

Guyld. My honor'd Lord.

Rof. My most deere Lord.

Ham. My exlent good friends, how dooſt thou *Guyldersterne*?

230 *Ah Rofencrans*, good lads how doe you both?

Rof. As the indifferent children of the earth.

211 F. contracts *o'th' Ayre*; the inconsistency of the scribe in such contractions is shown by the F. *Out of the Ayre* in l. 209.

214 Q. *fanctity*; F. *Sanitie*, which is, of course, correct; cf. note on 1.3.21 above.

215-17 *The words and fodainely . . . between him* omitted in Q. are supplied from F. They occupy about the space Shakespeare would have taken to write a line of prose on ordinary foolscap, and it seems likely that the Q. printer accidentally dropped such a line, his eye slipping from the first *him and* to the second *him and* of this passage.

In ll. 217-18 F. inserts *Honourable* before *Lord* and *most humbly* before *take my leaue*. Wilson like most editors follows F. but the words are suspiciously like an actor's padding of his part. They may, on the other hand, be due to the printer who setting up this passage as verse inserted them to fill out the short line.

220 F. inserts *Sir* before *take*, followed by Wilson and most editors. It may be an actor's insertion, but note the use of *Sir* in Hamlet's address to Polonius in ll. 178, 199, 202 and 204. Probably it has been dropped here by the Q. printer.

F. omits the Q. *not* before *more*. Wilson considers the Q. *not* a printer's "accidental insertion," but the Q. printer is more in the habit of omitting than of inserting words. We may have here a double negative *can not . . . will not* which has been edited out by the F. scribe.

221 For the triple *except my life* of Q. F. reads *except my life, my life*. This is apparently a scribal alteration.

228 Q. *extent*, probably a misreading *l* as *t* of a Shakespearian spelling *exlent*. F. modernizes *excellent*.

230 For Q. *A* (i.e., *Ah*) *Rofencrans*. F. has *Oh, Rofincrane*.

Guyl. Happy, in that we are not ouer happy, on Fortunes cap,
we are not the very button.

Ham. Nor the foles of her fhooe.

Rof. Neither my Lord.

Ham. Then you liue about her waft, or in the middle of her

Guyl. Faith her priuates we. [fauors.

240 *Ham.* In the fecret parts of Fortune, oh moft true, fhe is a
trumpet. What newes?

Rof. None my Lord, but that the worlds growne honeft.

Ham. Then is Doomes day neere, but your newes is not true.

[Let me question more in particular: what haue you my good
friends, deferued at the hands of Fortune, that fhe fends you
to Prifon hither?

Guil. Prifon, my Lord?

Ham. Denmark's a Prifon.

250 *Rofin.* Then is the World one.

Ham. A goodly one, in which there are many Cónfines,
Wards, and Dungeons; *Denmarke* being one o'th' worft.

Rofin. We thinke not fo my Lord.

232 *Q. euer happy*, misreading *o* as *e*. *F.* correctly **ouer-happy**.

Q. lap; *F.* correctly **cap**. Wilson attributes the *Q.* error to the "corrector." Misled by the foregoing *euer* (for *ouer*) he assumed that the speaker was *ever* happy on "Fortune's lap." Accordingly he altered the punctuation to bring out this sense, deleting the stop after **happy** and placing a comma after *lap*. *F.* has a colon after **happy**, but a comma is probably closer to the original punctuation. *Q.* opens the next line with a capitalized **We** as if a line of verse.

234 *Q.* has a period after *fhooe*; *F.* a question mark. This seems a natural pointing and is followed by most editors including Wilson; but Hamlet's speech may be taken as an ironical affirmative.

237 *F. fauour?*, a dropped final *s*, and a question mark for the period of *Q.*

241 *Q.* has a comma, *F.* a period after **trumpet**. The period seems required since *Q.* prints the next word **What** with a capital as at the beginning of a sentence.

F. What's the newes, expanding the *Q.* text. Wilson sees here an omission by the *Q.* printer, but *F.* expansion is quite as likely.

242 *F.* supplies **that** wanting in *Q.*

244-277 These lines wanting in *Q.* are supplied from *F.* They must have been in the original ms., but the reference to Denmark as one of the worst prisons of the world was cancelled in the copy sent to Roberts out of deference to the Danish wife of James I now patron of Shakespeare's company. Whoever was responsible for the "cut" in this closely woven passage of prose found it impossible to stop till he reached l. 277. As the passage stands in *Q.* the awkward repetition of **but**: l. 242 **but your news** and l. 276 **But in the beaten way** is plain proof of a cut in the text. Wilson calls attention to the "heavy" punctuation of the *F.* text in this passage.

Ham. Why then 'tis none to you; for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so: to me it is a prison.

Rofin. Why then your Ambition makes it one: 'tis too narrow for your minde.

260 *Ham.* O God, I could be bounded in a nutshell, and count my selfe a King of infinite space; were it not that I haue bad dreames.

Guil. Which dreames indeed are Ambition: for the very substance of the Ambitious, is meereley the shadow of a Dreame.

Ham. A dreame it selfe is but a shadow.

Rofin. Truely, and I hold Ambition of so ayry and light a quality, that it is but a shadowes shadow.

270 *Ham.* Then are our Beggers bodies; and our Monarchs and out-stretcht Heroes the Beggers Shadows: shall wee to th' Court: for, by my fey I cannot reason?

Both. Wee'l wait vpon you.

• *Ham.* No such matter. I will not fort you with the rest of my seruants: for to speake to you like an honest man: I am most dreadfully attended. But in the beaten way of friendship, what make you at *Elfonoure*?

Rof. To visit you my Lord, no other occasion.

280 *Ham.* Begger that I am, I am euen poore in thanks, but I thanke you, and sure deare friends, my thanks are too deare a halfpenny: were you not sent for? is it your owne inclining? is it a free visitation? come, come deale iustly with me, come, come, nay speake.

Gyl. What should we say my Lord?

290 *Ham.* Any thing but to th' purpose: you were sent for, and there is a kind of confession in your lookes, which your modesties haue not craft enough to cullour, I know the good King and Queene haue sent for you.

Rof. To what end my Lord?

280 Q. *euer*; F. **euen**, followed by all editors and no doubt correct. Q. misprints *r* for *n*.

284 Q. **come, come deale**. F. omits the second *come*, perhaps intentionally to avoid the repetition **come, come** that immediately follows.

287 F. *Why anything. But to the purpose; you.* In Q. *to'th* the printer has made his usual apostrophe error. Otherwise there is no need to alter the Q. text; the *Why* of F. is the sort of word that an actor inserts, and the punctuation of Q. makes better sense. Hamlet bids his friends "say anything, but let it be to the purpose." Then after a pause marked by the Q. colon,—F. has a period after *thing* and a semicolon after *purpose*.—he directly charges them: **you were sent for, and there is a kind of confession**, etc. F. omits the **of** in this last phrase.

Ham. That you muſt teach me: but let me coniure you, by the rights of our fellowſhip, by the conſonancie of our youth, by the obligation of our euer preferred loue; and by what more deare a better propoſer can charge you withall, bee euen and direct with me whether you were ſent for or no.

300 *Rof.* What ſay you?

Ham. Nay then I haue an eye of you! if you loue me hold not of.

Guy. My Lord we were ſent for.

Ham. I will tell you why, ſo ſhall my anticipation preuent your diſcouery, and your ſecrecie to the King & Queene moult no feather, I haue of late, but wherefore I knowe not, loſt all my mirth, forgon all cuſtome of exerciſes: and indeede it goes ſo heauily with my diſpoſition, that this goodly frame the earth, ſeemes to mee a ſterill promontorie, this moſt excellent Canopie the ayre, looke you, this braue orehanging firmament, this maiſteſticall rooſe fretted with golden fire, why it appeareth nothing to me but a foule and peſtilent congregation of vapours. What a peece of worke is a man, how noble in reaſon, how
 320 infinite in faculties, in forme and moouing, how expreſſe and admirable, in action how like an Angell, in apprehenſion, how like a God: the beautie of the world; the paragon of Animales;

297 F. *could charge*; followed by many editors; but F. represents an alteration like that in l. 206 above.

300 Q. has a period; F. a question mark after *you*, which seems necessary. The speech is a question addressed aside to Guildenstern.

301 Q. has a question mark used as an exclamation; F. a semicolon after *you*.

304-23 The Q. punctuation has been retained in this passage, except for placing a comma after *admirable*, deleting one after *action*, and placing one after *Angell*, although it gives a slightly different sense from the familiar arrangement of F.

308 F. drops the final *s* in *exercises*.

309 F. misprints *heauenly*.

312 F. omits *firmament*.

313-14 F. *appeares no other thing to mee, then a, etc.* followed by many editors, but it is the usual modernization of the F. text. Q. gives a perfect sense.

315 Q. omits *a* before *peece*, supplied from F.

317 F. *faculty*, dropping the plural ending.

321 A somewhat damaged *n* in the Hunt. copy of Q. is responsible for the reading *Aunimales* in the Griggs and Viotor reprints. The Folger and Eliz. Club copies have quite plainly *Animales*.

and yet to me, what is this Quintessence of duft: man delights not me, nor woman neither, though by your smiling, you seeme to say so.

Rof. My Lord, there was no such stuffe in my thoughts.

Ham. Why did yee laugh then, when I sayd man delights not me.

Rof. To thinke my Lord if you delight not in man, what
330 Lenton entertainment the players shall receive from you, we coted them on the way, and hether are they comming to offer you service.

Ham. He that plays the King shall be welcome, his Maiestie shall have tribute on me, the aduenterous Knight shall vie his foyle and target, the Louer shall not fight gratis, the humorous Man shall end his part in peace, the Clowne shall make those laugh whose lungs are tickle a' th' fere, and the Lady shall say
340 her minde freely: or the blanke verse shall haue for't. What players are they?

Rof. Euen those you were wont to take such delight in, the Tragedians of the City.

Ham. How chanceth it they trauaile? their residence both in reputation, and profit was better both wayes.

Rof. I thinke their inhibition comes by the meanes of the late innouation.

Ham. Doe they hold the same estimation they did when I
350 was in the City; are they so followed.

Rofin. No indeede are they not.

322 Q. **nor women**; F. *no, nor Woman*, followed by most editors including Wilson. The context seems to call for the F. *woman* to correspond with the preceding *man*. The *no* of F. seems like an actor's insertion for emphasis; but Wilson believes it omitted by the Q. printer.

324 Q. *smiling*, probably a mere misprint. F. corrects.

326 F. *you* for Q. **yee** and omits **then**.

333 F. *Tribute of*, a modernization. For the Q. use of *on* here see *N.E.D.* *sub on*, 23. Cf. also *Lear*, 5.3.165.

336-7 The words from the **Clowne to th' fere**, omitted in Q., are supplied from F. See note on ll. 215-17 above. F. reads *tickled*, a misprint for *tickle*; **tickle a', th' fere** = quick on the trigger, easily moved to explode in laughter.

339 Q. *black*, corrected by F. to **blanke**. Shakespeare may have written *blanch* or *blāk*. In either case the Q. printer misread the word.

341 F. omits **such** and is followed by many editors. But it is unusual for the Q. printer to insert a word not found in his copy.

345 Q. has a needless comma, F. no punctuation after **inhibition**.

351 F. *they are*, the scribe's alteration to the more usual form.

Ham. How comes it? doe they grow rufty?

Rofin. Nay, their indeauour keepest in the wonted pace; But there is Sir an ayrie of Children, little Yafes, that crye out on the top of question; and are most tyrannically clap't for't: these are now the fashon, and so be-rattle the common Stages (so they call them) that many wearing Rapiers, are affraide of Goose-quils, and dare scarce come thither.

Ham. What are they Children? Who maintains 'em? How are they escoted? Will they pursue the Quality no longer then they can sing? Will they not say afterwards if they should grow themselves to common Players (as it is most like if their meanes are no better) their Writers do them wrong, to make them exclaim against their owne Succession.

Rofin. Faith there ha's bene much to do on both sides: and the Nation holds it no sinne, to tarre them to Controuersie. There was for a while, no mony bid for argument, vnlesse the Poet and the Player went to Cuffes in the Question.

Ham. Is't possible?

Guild. Oh there ha's bene much throwing about of Braines.

Ham. Do the Boyes carry it away?

Rofin. I that they do my Lord, *Hercules* & his load too.

352-79 This well known passage referring to the War of the Theaters and the rivalry of the Children of the Chapel with Shakespeare's company is wanting in Q. and is supplied from F. There is some reason to believe that it was an afterthought of Shakespeare's written sometime in 1601 when the "war" was at its hottest and incorporated at that time in the acting version; a trace of the passage appears in Q.1(2.2) where Gilderstone remarks: "the principall publike audience that came to them (i.e. the Tragedians of the city) are turned to private playes and to the humour of children." It was probably deleted from the copy for Q. out of respect for Queen Anne now patroness of the Children of the Chapel, but it remained, even if not acted, in the ms. from which F. is derived.

357 F. *be-rattled*, misprint for *be-rattle*, corrected in F.₂.

365 F. *as it is like most*. Most editors follow Pope's emendation and read *as it is most like*. Wilson accepts an anonymous conjecture and inserts *will* after *most*, interpreting: as it is like most (of the Children) will. This is ingenious and plausible, but F. does not as a rule drop single words as often as Q. does. It is perhaps better to read *most like* and blame the F. printer for a careless inversion.

366 F. *no better*. Wilson follows F.₂ reading *not better* and remarks that F. "shows traces of a broken or reversed letter after *o* which can only be a *t*." In the White Folio at Princeton the "trace" seems to be that of a "slug" rather than of a broken *t*, and it is plain that if it were a *t* there would be no space left between the words *not* and *better*. It seems better to follow F. than to accept the unauthorized emendation of F.₂.

369 F. *ha's*, a common form in this text.

380 *Ham.* It is not very ftrange, for my Vncle is King of Denmarke, and thofe that would make mouths at him while my father liued, giue twenty, fortie, fifty, a hundred duckets a peece, for his Picture in little, 'sbloud there is fomthing in this more then naturall, if Philofophie could find it out. *A Florifh.*

Guy. There are the players.

Ham. Gentlemen you are welcome to *Elfonoure*, your hands, come then, th'appurtenance of welcome is fafhion and ceremonie; let mee comply with you in this garb: left my extent to the players, which I tell you muft flowe fairely outwards, should more appeare like entertainment then yours. You are welcome: but my Vncle-father, and Aunt-mother, are deceaued.

Guy. In what my deare Lord?

Ham. I am but mad North North weft; when the wind is Southerly, I knowe a Hauke, from a hand faw.

Enter Polonius.

Pol. Well be with you Gentlemen.

400 *Ham.* Harke you *Guyldenfterne*, and you to, at each eare a hearer, that great baby you fee there is not yet out of his fwadling clouts.

380 F. omits **very**, and prints *mine* for Q. **my**.

381 F. *moves* for Q. **mouths**. Wilson thinks *moves* the true reading and attributes **mouths** to the corrector. But Shakespeare uses both words and in this play, 4.4.50, uses this very phrase *makes mouths* in the Q. text where there is no corresponding passage in F. to check it by. Possibly the F. *moves* is an actor's alteration to make a sharper point.

382 F. omits **fifty**.

384 Q. **s'bloud**; F. omits, the censor's deletion.

388 The comma needed after **hands**, wanting in Q., is supplied from F. Wilson replaces it with a question mark and gives a new ingenious interpretation of the passage which is hardly convincing.

F. omits **then** after **come** and punctuates *come: The appurtenance*.

390 F. *the* for Q. **this**.

Q. *let me*; F. correctly **left my**. The Q. printer has repeated the just preceding **let mee**.

392 F. *outward*, dropping the final *s*.

Q. *yours? you are*. The question mark stands for an exclamation, but the F. punctuation, a period after **yours**, seems better here.

397-8 The word **handfaw** (*hand faw*, Q.) has often been interpreted as a corruption of *hernshaw*, i.e. heron. But both *hawke* and *handsaw* are workman's tools, the *hawke* a plasterer's tool; the *handsaw* a light instrument. No doubt, however, there is an implied pun on *hawke* (falcon) and *hernshaw*, as the context with its reference to the southerly wind, good hunting weather, shows.

401 F. *fwathing*, a misspelled variant; it should be *swathling*. It is unusual for F. to present an archaic form.

Rof. Happily he is the second time come to them, for they say an old man is twice a child.

Ham. I will prophecy, he comes to tell me of the players, mark it, You say right fir, a Monday morning, 'twas then indeede.

Pol. My Lord I haue newes to tell you.

410 *Ham.* My Lord I haue newes to tel you: when *Roffius* was an Actor in Rome.

Pol. The Actors are come hether my Lord.

Ham. Buz, buz.

Pol. Vppon my honor.

Ham. Then came each Actor on his Affe.

420 *Pol.* The best actors in the world, either for Tragedie, Comedy, Hiftory, Paftorall, Paftorall-Comicall, Hiftoricall-Paftorall, fcene indeuidible, or Poem vnlimited. *Seneca* cannot be too heavy, nor *Plautus* too light, for the lawe of writ, and the liberty: thefe are the only men.

Ham. O *Ieptha* Iudge of Ifraell, what a treafure had'ft thou!

405 F. for a Monday morning 'twas so, followed by many editors because of its agreement with Q.1. But the Q. text needs no change except the correction of 'twas to 'twas. Possibly the F. text is due to the scribe's misunderstanding of a which here = *on*. Taking it as the indefinite article he thought it necessary to introduce the phrase by *for* and carelessly altered then to *so*.

410 F. omits *was*.

414 F. misprints *can* for *came*.

419 The hyphens uniting *Pastoral-Comical* and *Historical-Pastoral*, wanting in Q. are supplied from F.

After *Historical-Pastoral* F. adds *Tragicall-Historicall: Tragicall-Comicall-Historicall-Pastoral*. Wilson thinks them dropped by the Q. printer, but they suggest a bit of "patter" inserted by the actor of Polonius to fatten his part.

420 Q. *Seneca*, corrected by F. It is unlikely that Shakespeare misspelled this familiar name. It may be a misprint on the analogy of *Scena*.

421 The punctuation of both texts is rather puzzling. Q. has no stop after *light*; F. has a comma. Q. has a colon after *liberty*; F. a period. In other words both texts agree in connecting the phrase *law of writ and the liberty* with what precedes. Most modern editors, except Wilson, alter the punctuation to connect the phrase with what follows. A comma after *light* as in F. seems all that is needed here.

The passage is certainly topical. It contains three contrasted pairs: *scene indeuidible* vs. *Poem vnlimited*; *Seneca* vs. *Plautus*; *law of writ* vs. *the liberty*. Through the mouth of Polonius Shakespeare seems to be laughing at the critics of his day with their arguments about the unities (*Scene indeuidible*), tragedy and comedy, the *comedia dell' arte*, and so forth.

423 Both Q. and F. have a question mark for exclamation after *thou*.

Pol. What a treafure had he my Lord?

Ham. Why one faire daughter and no more, the which he loued pafsing well.

Pol. Still on my daughter.

Ham. Am I not i'th right old Ieptha?

430 Pol. If you call me Ieptha my Lord, I haue a daughter that

Ham. Nay that followes not. [I loue pafsing well.

Pol. What followes then my Lord?

Ham. Why as by lot God wot, and then you knowe it came to paffe, as moft like it was; the firft rowe of the pious chanfon will showe you more, for looke where my abridgment comes.

Enter the Players.

440 Ham. You are welcome maifters, welcome all, I am glad to fee thee well, welcome good friends, oh old friend, why thy face is valand since I faw thee laft, com'ft thou to beard me in Denmark? what my young Lady and miftris, byr lady your
 • Ladifhippe is nerer to heauen, then when I faw you laft by the altitude of a chopine, pray God your voyce like a peece of vncurrant gold, bee not crackt within the ring: maifters you are all welcome, weele e'ne to't like French Faulkners, fly at
 450 any thing we fee, weele haue a fpeech ftraite, come giue vs a taft of your quality, come a pafionate fpeech.

Player. What fpeech my good Lord?

Ham. I heard thee fpeake me a fpeech once, but it was neuer acted, or if it was, not aboue once, for the play I remember pleafd not the million, 'twas cauiary to the generall, but it

438 F. *Pons* for Q. *pious*, a compositor's error.

439 F. *Abridgments come*. The scribe, thinkipg of the players as Hamlet's "abridgment," has altered both noun and verb from singular to plural. s.d. F. *enter foure or five Players*; cf. *Introduction* p. 52.

440 F. *Y'are* for Q. *You are*.

441 F. omits *why* and inserts *my* before *old* in this line, probably a scribal error.

442 Q. *valand*; Shakespeare probably spelled it *valand*. The F. *valiant* is a mis correction by the scribe who did not understand *valand*, i.e. fringed.

445 Q. *by Lady*; F. *Byrlady*. Q. has dropped the *r*. F. omits *to* before *heauen*.

449 Q. *ento't*; F. *e'ne to't*. The Q. printer has missed one apostrophe and run two words together.

Q. *friendly Fankners*; F. *French Faulconers*. The Q. printer misread Shakespeare's *frenchy* as *frenchy* or *frenly* and miscorrected it to *friendly*. The *n* in *Fankners* is an inverted *u*; Shakespeare probably spelled *Faukners*.

452 F. omits *good*.

458 Q. *'twas*; F. *'twas*.

F. *Cauarie* (in *Italics*), a variant spelling. In Shakespeare's day the word was pronounced with four syllables.

- 460 was as I receaued it & others, whose iudgements in such matters cried in the top of mine, an excellent play, well digested in the scenes, set downe with as much modestie as cunning. I remember one sayd there were no fallets in the lines, to make the matter fauory, nor no matter in the phraze that might indite the author of affection, but cald it an honest method, as wholesome as sweete, & by very much, more handsome then fine: one speech in't I chiefly loued, 'twas *Aeneas* tale to *Dido*, & there about of it especially when he speakes of
- 470 *Priams* slaughter, if it liue in your memory begin at this line, let me see, let me see, the rugged *Pirhus* like Th'ircanian beaft, tis not so, it beginnes with *Pirrhus*, the rugged *Pirrhus*, he whose fable Armes, Black as his purpose did the night resemble.

459 F. *iudgement*, dropping the final s.

462 F. (supported by Q.) *there was*. It is unusual to find F. reverting to the use of a singular verb with a plural subject. The usage was common, however, in Shakespeare's day and is probably to be attributed here to the scribe.

465 F. *affection*, a modernization. Shakespeare certainly wrote *affection* in the sense of *affected speech*. The word *affection* is not found in any of the Shakespearean Qq., although *L.L.L.*, 5.2.407, he must have used it to rhyme with *ostentation*. Here the Q. of *L.L.L.* has *affection*; F. *affection*.

467-8 F. omits the words: *as wholesome . . . then fine*. Here as above, ll. 217-18, the words omitted are about the length of a Shakespearean line of prose, overlooked by the scribe or printer of F.

468 Q. *talke*; F. *tale*, followed by most editors. Wilson suggests that the Q. printer misread *tale* as *take* and "miscorrected" to *talke*. Such a misreading of *l* as *k* appears below, l. 479, where for Q. *totall* F. reads to *take*. Since the reference here is to the famous narration of Aeneas to Dido we may assume that *tale* was Shakespeare's word and that *talke*, though it gives some sense, is a mere misprint.

F. *where* for Q. *when*. Wilson thinks *when* a misprint but it gives good sense and may be retained.

471 Q. *Pirhus*; F. *Pyrrhus*. Shakespeare (or the Q. printer) seems uncertain about the spelling of this name. Q. has *Pirhus*, *Pirrhus* and *Phirrus* in quick succession. F. normalizes throughout.

F. *th'Hyrceanian*. The Q. form may represent Shakespeare's pronunciation; the *H* was often silent in Elizabethan as in modern cockney English.

473 F. *It is not*, probably a scribal alteration.

473-4 Q. prints the words: *the rugged . . . Armes* as prose and begins the verse lining with *Black as*. This probably represents the lining of the copy, and it is possible that Shakespeare meant the actor of Hamlet to speak these words slowly with an effort to recall the passage before swinging into the sonorous declamation of the speech. F. begins the verse lining one line earlier.

- When he lay couched in th'omynous horfe,
 Hath now this dread and black complection fmeard,
 With heraldy more difmall, head to foote,
 Now is he totall Gules horridly trickt
 480 With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters, fonnes,
 Bak'd and empasted with the parching ftreetes
 That lend a tirranus and a damned light
 To their Lords murther, rofted in wrath and fire,
 And thus ore-cifed with coagulate gore,
 With eyes like Carbunkles, the hellifh *Phirrhus*
 Old grandfire *Priam* feeke;
 So proceede you.
Pol. Foregod my Lord well fpoken, with good accent and
 490 *Play.* Anon he finds him, [good difcretion.
 Striking too fhort at Greekes, his anticke fword
 Rebellious to his arme, lies where it fals,
 Repugnant to commaund; vnequall matcht,
Pirrhus at *Priam* driues, in rage ftrikes wide,
 But with the whiffe and winde of his fell fword,
 Th'vnnerued father fals: Then fenfeleffe Illium

- 476 F. *the Ominous*; Q. represents Shakespeare's pronunciation; cf. l. 472 above.
- 478 F. *Heraldry*, modernizing Q. *heraldy*; cf. note on 1.1.87.
 There is no punctuation after *difmall* in Q.; F. has a colon. A comma probably corresponds better to the light punctuation of the ms.
- 479 F. *to take*, see note on l. 468 above.
 F. *Geulles*, an Elizabethan variant of Q. *Gules*.
- 483 F. *vilde Murthers*, an arbitrary scribal alteration, possibly due to a misunderstanding of the text. The Q. phrase *their Lords murther* has been usually interpreted as meaning the murder of their lord, i.e. *Priam*; but *Priam* has not yet been slain and it is quite possible to take *Lords* as the possessive plural and to think of the burning streets of Troy lighting up the slaughter of those who had been their lords. Evidently the scribe thought the phrase implied more deaths than one since he changed the singular *murther* to the plural form.
- 487 The words *to proceede you*, omitted in F., are printed in Q., probably following copy, in line with *Old . . . feeke*. They are, however, extra-metrical. Hamlet pauses in his declamation on a half line which is later completed by the Player. They should be placed, as here, on a separate line.
 Q. has a semicolon; F. a period after *feeke*. Q. probably represents Shakespeare's intention of a full stop.
- 493 F. *match*, probably final *t* dropped by printer; but it may be the scribe's effort to improve Shakespeare by turning the Q. participle into a noun in apposition with *Pirrhus*.
- 496 The phrase *Then fenfeleffe Illium*, omitted in Q., is supplied from F. It is necessary to both syntax and meter and must have been carelessly omitted by the Q. printer.

Seeming to feele this blowe, with flaming top
 Stoo pes to his bafe; and with a hiddious crafh
 Takes prisoner *Pirrh*us eare, for loe his fword
 500 Which was declining on the milkie head
 Of reuerent *Priam*, feem'd i'th ayre to ftick,
 So as a painted tirant *Pirrh*us ftood
 And like a newtrall to his will and matter,
 Did nothing:
 But as we often fee againft fome ftorme,
 A filence in the heauens, the racke ftand ftill,
 The bold winds fpeechlefse, and the orbe belowe
 As hufh as death, anon the dreadfull thunder
 Doth rend the region, fo after *Pirrh*us pause,
 510 A rowed vengeance fets him new a worke,
 And neuer did the Cyclops hammers fall,
 On *Mars*es Armor forg'd for prooffe eterne,
 With leffe remorfe then *Pirrh*us bleeding fword
 Now falls on *Priam*.
 Out, out, thou ftumpet Fortune, all you gods,
 In generall finod take away her power,
 Breake all the fpokes and Fallies from her wheele,
 And boule the round naue downe the hill of heauen
 As lowe as to the fiends.

520 *Pol.* This is too long.

Ham. It fhall to the barbers with your beard; prethee fay on,
 he's for a ligge, or a tale of bawdry, or he fleepes, fay on, come
 to *Hecuba*.

497 F. *his* for Q. *this*, a scribal error.

501 F. *Reverend*, modernizing the Q. *reverent*, a common form in Shakespeare's day.

Wilson gives *fticke* as the F. form in this line, but the White Folio at Princeton has quite plainly *fticke*.

503 Q. omits *And* at the beginning of this line, supplied from F.

510 F. misprints *A ro wfed*.

512 F. *Mars his*. The Q. spelling occurs in two other plays (*Temp.*, 4.1.98 and *All's Well*, 2.3.300) which were presumably printed from Shakespeare's ms. and may be taken as his spelling. The F. scribe dislikes the form and alters it.

F. *Armours* for Q. *Armor*.

515 F. hyphenates *Strumpet-Fortune*.

517 Q. has an intrusive comma after *spokes*. It is deleted in F.

Q. *follies*, an *o* for a misprint. The F. *Fallies* is a rare seventeenth century spelling of *felloes*.

521 F. *to'th*, a mere misprint.

Play. But who, ah woe, had feene the mobled Queene,
Ham. The mobled Queene.

Pol. That's good. Mobled Queene is good.

Play. Runne barefoote vp and downe, threatning the flames
 With *Bifon* rheume, a clout vppon that head
 530 Where late the Diadem ftood, and for a robe,
 About her lanck and all ore-teamed loynes,
 A blancket in the alarme of feare caught vp,
 Who this had feene, with tongue in venom fteept,
 Gainft fortunes fstate would treafon haue pronounft;
 But if the gods themfelues did fee her then,
 When fhe faw *Pirrhus* make malicious fport
 In mincing with his fword her hufbands limmes,
 The infant burft of clamor that fhe made,
 Vnleffe things mortall mooue them not at all,
 540 Would haue made milch the burning eyes of heauen
 *And pafion in the gods.

Pol. Looke where he has not turnd his cullour, and has teares
 in's eyes, prethee no more.

Ham. Tis well, Ile haue thee fpeake out the reft of this foone,
 Good my Lord will you fee the players well beftowed; doe you

524 F. *who*, O, *who* had; followed by most editors. But the Q. *a* = *ah*
 (cf. 2.2.230 above) and *ah woe* (i.e. *alas*) makes perfect sense. It is easier
 to suppose that an actor preferred the repetition of *who* (as in the text
 of Q.) than to think the Q. printer misread *who* as *woe*. The F. *who* may,
 however, be a scribal error.

527 The words *mobled* . . . *good*, missing in the speech of Polonius in Q.,
 are supplied from F. which, however, prints *mobled* here as *Inobled*, fol-
 lowing its misprint, *inobled*, a minim error, in the two preceding lines. The
 fact that Q. supports Q. here points to a scribal error rather than to an
 actor's alteration in F.

528 F. *flame*, final *s* dropped.

Q. *Bifon*; F. *Biffon*, variants of a word spelled many ways in Eliza-
 bethan English, meaning "blind" or "blinding." In *Cor.*, 2.1.70 it appears
 as *beesome*.

Q. *rehume*; F. *Rheume*. The Q. printer has transposed the *h* and *e*.

F. *about*, perhaps the scribe's anticipation of this word in l. 531 below.
 It is hard to believe that Shakespeare wrote *a clout about*.

531 Q. omits the hyphen between *ore* and *teamed*, supplied from F.

532 F. *th'Alarum*, a scribal variation.

537 Q. *husband*; F. correctly *Husbands*.

543 F. *Pray you*, a scribal variation.

544 F. omits *of this* after *the rest*.

546 F. *ye* for Q. *you*.

heare, let them be well vfed, for they are the abſtract and breefe
 550 Chronicles of the time; after your death you were better haue a
 bad Epitaph then their ill report while you liue.

Pol. My Lord, I will vfe them according to their defert.

Ham. Gods bodkin man, much better, vfe euery man after
 his defert, & who fhall ſcape whipping, vfe them after your owne
 honor and dignity, the leſſe they deferue the more merrit is in
 your bounty. Take them in.

Pol. Come firſ.

560 *Ham.* Follow him friends, wee leaue a play to morrowe;
 doſt thou heare me old friend, can you play the murder of
Gonzago?

Play. I my Lord.

Ham. Wee leaue ha't to morrowe night, you could for a neede
 ſtudy a ſpeech of ſome dozen lines, or fixteene lines, which I
 would ſet downe and infer in't, could you not?

Play. I my Lord.

548 *F. Abstracts*, an unnecessary alteration. Wilson thinks *Q.* has dropped the
 final *s*. It seems better to take *abstract* like *breef* as an adjective modifying
Chronicles than to make it, as *F.* does, a noun.

551 *F. liued*, a mere misprint.

554 The *Q. bodkin* is an abbreviated form of *F. bodykins*. *F.* omits *much*
 in this line.

556 *F. who ſhould*; cf. note on l. 299 above.

559, 572, 573 The s.d. after these lines vary in *Q.* and *F.* *F.* prints *Exit Polon.*
 after his *Come firſ*, and has no other s.d. till l. 573 when its *Exeunt*
 apparently dismisses the *Players* as well as *Rosencrans* and *Guyldensterne*.
Q. omits the first of these s.d. and prints *Exeunt Pol. and Players* after
Elſonoure, l. 572, followed by an *Exeunt* for *Rosencrans* and *Guyldensterne*
 after l. 573. The arrangement most like Shakespeare's intention, probably,
 is to place the *Q. Exeunt Pol. and Players* after l. 570. We may imagine
Polonius and the *Players* starting off after *Come firſ*, *Hamlet* detaining
 one of them, the *old friend* (l. 561) for a moment, and then the whole party
 leaving together. The phrase *my good friends*, l. 571, is addressed to
Rosencrans and *Guyldensterne* who are then directed by the *Q. Exeunt* after
 l. 573 to walk off. Typographical necessity forced the *Q.* printer to place his
 first s.d. after the short l. 572 rather than after l. 570 where it seems to
 belong.

566 *Q. hate*; *F. ha't*, i.e. have it. *Q.* omits *a* before *neede*, supplied from *F.*

566-7 *F. ſome dozen or fixteene lines*, followed by most editors. Wilson thinks
 the *Q.* printer's eye anticipated the second *lines*, but Wilson notes only one
 instance of such anticipation (l. 267), and the *Q.* printer is more likely to
 omit than to insert words in the text.

568 *F. ye* for *Q. you*.

570 *Ham.* Very well, followe that Lord, & looke you mock him
not. *Exeunt Pol. and Players.*

My good friends, Ile leaue you till night, you are welcome to
Elfonoure.

Rof. Good my Lord. *Exeunt.*

Ham. I fo, God buy to you, now I am alone,

O what a rogue and pefant flaue am I.

Is it not monftrous that this player heere

But in a fixion, in a dreame of pafion

Could force his foule fo to his owne conceit

580 That from her working all his vifage wand,

Teares in his eyes, diftraction in his afpect,

A broken voyce, and his whole function futing

With formes to his conceit? and all for nothing,

For *Hecuba.*

What's *Hecuba* to him, or he to *Hecuba*,

That he fhould weepe for her? what would he doe

Had he the motiue, and the Cue for pafion

That I haue? he would drowne the ftage with teares,

572 *Q. tell*; *F. til.* Cf. 4.5.157 and 5.1.322 below. Wilson thinks *tell* may be a Shakespearean spelling. More probably Shakespeare's failure to dot the *i* caused this and similar misprints.

575 The comma after *fo* wanting in *Q.* is supplied from *F.*

F. God buy' ye, a shortened form of the *Q.* phrase. In either case the phrase is trisyllabic.

576 *F.* has a question mark denoting an exclamation after *I.*

580 *Q. the visage wand*; *F. his visage warm'd.* The context with its repetition of *his*, ll. 579, 581, 582, 583, seems to require *his*, i.e. the player's visage. The *F. warmed* is probably a minim error.

581 *Q. in his aspect*; *F. in's*, representing the pronunciation.

582 *Q. an*; *F. and*, a dropped letter in *Q.*

583 *Q.* has a semicolon after *conceit*; the necessary question mark is supplied from *F.* *F.* adds another question mark after *nothing* and again after *Hecuba*, l. 584, where it represents an exclamation, and *Q.* has a period.

585 *Q. he to her*; *Q.F. he to Hecuba*, followed by most editors. *Q.* makes good sense but is less emphatic than *F.* It seems unlikely that the scribe should have changed *her* to *Hecuba* without authority. Wilson makes the interesting suggestion that Shakespeare grew tired of writing *Hecuba*, three times in two lines and abbreviated the word the last time to *hec.*, which the *Q.* printer naturally set up as *her*. In this case the scribe's *Hecuba* was warranted by his ms. where the change from *hec* to *Hecuba* had already been made.

587 *Q. that for*; *F. the Cue.* The *Q.* version is due to a printer's error. He may have simply dropped *cue*, or reading *theuc* as one word he may have set up *thet* (*c* and *t* often indistinguishable) omitting as illegible the following letters, and finally correcting *thet* to *that*. In any case *F.* is right.

- And cleaue the generall eare with horrid speech,
 590 Make mad the guilty, and appale the free,
 Confound the ignorant, and amaze indeede
 The very faculties of eyes and eares;
 Yet I,
 A dull and muddy metteld raskall peake,
 Like Iohn a dreames, vnpregnant of my caufe,
 And can fay nothing; no not for a King,
 Vpon whose property and moft deare life,
 A damn'd defeate was made: am I a coward,
 Who cals me villaine, breakes my pate a-crosse,
 600 Pluckes off my beard, and blowes it in my face,
 Tweekes me by the nofe, giues me the lie i'th Throate
 As deepe as to the lunges, who does me this?
 Hah, 'swounds I should take it: for it cannot be
 But I am pidgion liuerd, and lack gall
 To make opprefion bitter, or ere this
 I should a fatted all the region kytes
 With this flaues offall, bloody, baudy villaine,
 610 Remorfleffe, trecherous, lecherous, kindleffe villaine.
 Why what an Affe am I, this is moft braue,

- 592 F. *faculty*, as often a dropped *s*.
 Both Q. and F. print **Yet I** as part of this line. They probably follow copy, but it is better to let the two words stand as part of a short line, broken by emotion.
- 595 Q. **John a dreames**; F. has a hyphen between *a* and *dreames*.
 599 Q. *a crosse*, the missing hyphen is supplied from F.
 601 F. *by' th' nose*.
 Q. *i'th*; F. *i'th'*. As often the Q. printer drops an apostrophe.
 Q. *thraote*; F. *Throate*. Cf. Q. *abraode* 1.1.161 above. The confusion of *a* for *o*, common in Q., is probably due to Shakespeare's hand.
- 602 The question mark wanting after *this* in Q. is supplied from F. **which**, incidentally, peppers this passage with question marks, placing them after *Coward*, *Villaine*, *a-crosse*, *face*, *Nose*, *Lungs*, *this*, and *Ha*. This punctuation probably represents the way the speech was delivered on the stage and the lighter Q. punctuation the way that Shakespeare meant it to be spoken.
- 604 Q. *s'wounds*; F. *why*, probably an alteration by the censor. Q. misplaces the apostrophe.
- 607 Q. **a fatted**; F. *have fatted*. Q. represents Shakespeare's use of the colloquial *a* for *ha'*, i.e. *have*.
- 610 Q. omits the cry *Oh Vengeance*, found in F. after *kindleffe villaine*. Most editors admit it into the text, but it may well be an actor's or prompter's addition, due, perhaps, to a reminiscence of the old "Hamlet, revenge."
- 611 Q. **Why**; F. *Who?*, a palpable misprint, perhaps of a *Ho* in the copy.
 F. inserts *I sure* before *this*, probably an actor's addition.

- That I the fonne of a deere father murthered,
 Prompted to my reuenge by heauen and hell,
 Muft like a whore vnpacke my hart with words,
 And fall a curfing like a very drabbe;
 A ftallyon, fie vppont, foh.
 About my braines; hum, I haue heard,
 That guilty creatures fitting at a play,
 Haue by the very cunning of the fcene,
 620 Beene ftrooke fo to the foule, that prefently
 They haue proclaim'd their malefactions:
 For murther, though it haue no tongue will fpeake
 With moft miraculous organ: Ile haue thefe Players
 Play fomething like the murther of my father
 Before mine Vncle, Ile obferue his lookes,
 Ile tent him to the quicke, if a doe blench
 I know my courfe. The fpirit that I haue feene

- 612 Q. *a deere murthered*; F. *the deere murthered*. The missing word **father**, now received into most texts—Van Dam omits it—appears in the garbled version of this speech in Q.₁: *I the fonne of my deere father*. It first appears in the genuine text in Q.₄—undated but probably after 1611. The omission of the word in both Q. and F. is probably a coincidence. The appearance of *father* in Q.₄ shows that this word was spoken on the stage in 1601-1602. The F. text, *the deere murthered*, gives a possible, if somewhat awkward sense and normal meter, if *murthered* is trisyllabic.
- 616 Q. has a very long line here: **And fall . . . foh**. F. begins a new line with *A Scullion?* ending it with *Braine*. Neither lining is satisfactory; although that of Q. may well represent Shakespeare's hastily written ms. One might re-line: *And . . . drabbe/ A ftallyon . . . foh/ About . . . heard*.
 Q. **ftallyon**; F. *Scullion*, followed by almost all editors. The word *ftallyon*, however, in the Elizabethan sense of *courtesan*—see *N.E.D.* under *stallion* 3—makes perfect sense and completes the sequence *whore, drabbe, ftallyon*, better than the F. *Scullion*. Wilson's interpretation of *ftallyon* as "male whore" is unnecessary as may be seen by the quotations in *N.E.D.* under *stallion* 3. The Q.₁ *scalion* may be a misprint of either *ftallyon* or *scullion* (c for t or a for u) but suggests at least that *ftallyon* was heard on the stage. It seems not unlikely that the scribe modernized the obsolescent *ftallyon* into the more familiar *Scullion*.
- 617 F. *Braine*, followed by many editors, but Q. makes good sense; cf. 5.2.30 below, where both F. and Q. read *braines*. The B.M. copy of Q. (1605) has the misprint *braunes* here.
 F. which rearranges the lining to read: *A Scullion . . . Braine*, omits **hum** in this line.
- 626 F. *If he but*, a modernization. The F. scribe usually though not consistently writes *he* for Shakespeare's *a*, and adds emphasis by substituting *but* for *doe*.

May be a deule, and the deule hath power
 T'assume a pleasing shape, yea, and perhaps,
 630 Out of my weakenes, and my melancholy,
 As he is very potent with such spirits,
 Abuses me to damne me; Ile haue grounds
More relative then this, the play's the thing
Wherein Ile catch the conscience of the King. *Exit.*

*Enter King, Queene, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrans,
 Guyldesterne, Lords.*

King. And can you by no drift of conference
 Get from him why he puts on this confusion,
 Grating so harshly all his dayes of quiet
 With turbulent and dangerous lunacie?

Rof. He dooes confesse he feelles himselfe diftracted,
 But from what cause, a will by no meanes speake.

Guyl. Nor doe we find him forward to be founded, .
 But with a craftie madnes keepes aloofe
 When we would bring him on to some confession

10 Of his true state.

Quee. Did he receiue you well?

Rof. Most like a gentleman.

Guyl. But with much forcing of his disposition.

Rof. Niggard of question, but of our demands
 Most free in his reply.

Quee. Did you assay him to any pastime?

Rof. Maddam, it so fell out that certaine Players
 We ore-raught on the way, of these we told him,
 And there did seeme in him a kind of ioy

628 F. *the Diuell* . . . *the Diuel*. Shakespeare probably wrote *deuile* (u for v) which was misprinted in Q. as *deale*, the common a for u misprint. Cf. Q. *eale* for *euile*, 1.4.36 above and the note *ad loc*.

Act 3, scene 1

1 Q. *And*; F. *And*. The Q. printer has dropped the *d*. For Q. *conference*, F. reads *circumstance* which is followed by most editors, but Q. gives as good, if not a better sense: *drift of conference* = device of conversation, line of talk. Wilson suggests that F.'s *circumstance* is due to the scribe's unconscious recollection of *encompassment and drift*, 2.1.10, perhaps reinforced by Hamlet's

And so without more circumstance at all (1.5.127).

An interesting parallel to the F. text occurs in *T. and C.* (3.3.113-14).

The author's drift

Who in his circumstance expressly proves

6 F. *he* for Q. *a*.

- To heare of it : they are heere about the Court,
 20 And as I thinke, they haue already order
 This night to play before him.
Pol. Tis most true,
 And he befeecht me to intreat your Maiefties
 To heare and see the matter.
King. With all my hart, and it doth much content me
 To heare him so inclin'd.
 Good gentlemen giue him a further edge,
 And driue his purpose into these delights.
Rof. We fhall my Lord. *Exeunt Rof. & Guyl.*
King. Sweet *Gertrud*, leaue vs two,
 For we haue clofely sent for *Hamlet* hether,
 30 That he as *t'were* by accedent, may heere
 Affront *Ophelia*; her father and my felfe, (lawful espials)
 Wee'le so bestow our felues, that feeing vnfeene,

- 19 F. omits **heere** to normalize the meter, an unnecessary change since *they* are is to be pronounced as one syllable.
- 24-7 Both texts have irregular lining here. Q. prints as five lines ending **hart, me, inclin'd, edge and delights**; F. as four lines ending *me, Gentlemen, on, and delights*. Modern editors arrange variously; perhaps it is best to print *To heare . . . inclin'd* as a short line as it stands in Q.
- 27 F. on *To these*, followed by most editors; but there is no need to emend Q.
- 28 F. *us too*, followed by all editors except Wilson in the *Cranach Hamlet*, who there explains that the **two** of Q. are the King and Polonius, "little Ophelia doesn't count." In his *Manuscript of Shakespeare's Hamlet* and the *Cambridge Hamlet*, however, he reverts to the F. *too*, arguing that the Q. compositor or corrector mistook *too* in his copy for *two* of which it was a common spelling at the time. It seems quite as likely that the F. scribe, like all later editors, realized that the Queen's departure would leave *three* not *two* people on the stage, and accordingly, changed *two* to *too* to make the text agree with the situation. Shakespeare, however, was making the King think only of himself and Polonius. The Q. text may stand.
- 30 Q. *t'were*, the common apostrophe error.
 F. *there*, for Q. **heere**, probably a scribal alteration.
- 32 Q. omits the phrase **lawful espials** found in parenthesis at the end of this line in F. The phrase is extra-metrical and may have been added to his ms. by Shakespeare in such a fashion that it was overlooked by the Q. printer; if included in brackets in the ms. he may have thought it marked for omission. It should be restored to the text; no one but Shakespeare can have written these words.
- 33 F. *will* for Q. **Wee'le**, followed by all editors even by Wilson in the *Cambridge Hamlet*, who in the *Cranach Hamlet* followed Q. It seems unlikely that *Will* in the Q. copy should have been set up as **Wee'le**, whereas the scribe might well have altered **Wee'le** to *will* in order to improve, as he thought, the somewhat awkward syntax: *Her father and myself wee'le*.

We may of their encounter franckly iudge,
And gather by him as he is behau'd,
Ift be th'affliction of his loue or no
That thus he fuffers for.

Quee. I fhall obey you.

And for your part *Ophelia*, I doe wifh
That your good beauties be the happy caufe
40 Of *Hamlets* wildnes, fo fhall I hope your vertues,
Will bring him to his wonted way againe,
To both your honours.

Oph. Maddam, I wifh it may.

Pol. *Ophelia* walke you heere, gracious fo pleafe you,
We will beftow our felues; reade on this booke,
That fhew of fuch an exercife may cullour
Your lonelines; we are oft too blame in this
Tis too much proou'd, that with deuotions vifage
And pious action, we doe fugar ore
The deuill himfelfe.

King. O tis too true,
50 How fmart a lafh that fpeech doth giue my confcience.
The harlots cheeke beautied with plastring art,
Is not more ugly to the thing that helps it,
Then is my deede to my moft painted word:
O heauy burthen.

Enter Hamlet.

Pol. I heare him comming, let's with-draw my Lord.

Ham. To be, or not to be, that is the question,
Whether tis nobler in the minde to fuffer
The flings and arrowes of outrageous fortune,
Or to take Armes againft a fea of troubles,
60 And by oppofing, end them, to die, to fleepe
No more, and by a fleepe, to lay we end
The hart-ake, and the thoufand naturall fhocks
That flefh is heire to; tis a confumation

43 F. has a period after *heere*, and *ye* for Q. *you*.

46 Q. *lowlines*; F. correctly *lonelineffe*. Q. shows the common *w* for *n* misreading.

48 F. *furge*, a palpable misprint.

49 F. omits *too*.

52 Q. *ougly*, a spelling that appears more than once in Shakespeare's poems.

55 Q. omits *let's*, supplied from F. Q. lacks the F. *s.d. Exeunt* after this line.

60 The comma wanting after *die* in Q. is supplied from F.; cf. l. 64 below.

63 F. has a question mark for exclamation after *heire to*.

- Deuoutly to be wiſht, to die to fleepe,
 To fleepe, perchance to dreame, I there's the rub,
 For in that fleepe of death what dreams may come
 When we haue ſhuffled off this mortal coyle
 Muſt giue vs pauſe, there's the reſpect
 That makes calamitie of ſo long life:
 70 For who would beare the whips and ſcornes of time,
 Th'oppreſſors wrong, the proude mans contumely,
 The pangs of diſpriz'd loue, the lawes delay,
 The infolence of office, and the ſpurnes
 That patient merriſh of th'vnworthy takes,
 When he himſelfe might his Quietus make
 With a bare bodkin; who would fardels beare,
 To grunt and ſweat vnder a wearie life,
 But that the dread of ſomething after death,
 The vndiſcouer'd country, from whoſe borne
 80 No trauiſer returnes, puzzles the will,
 And makes vs rather beare thoſe illſ we haue,
 Then flie to others that we know not of.
 Thus conſcience dooes make cowards of vs all,
 And thus the native hiew of reſolution
 Is fickled ore with the pale craft of thought,

- 64 Q. has no ſtop after *wiſht*. F. has a period which ſeems too heavy for Shakespeare's pointing. The Q. printer may have dropped a comma.

Neither Q. nor F. has any punctuation in the phrase *to die to fleepe*. Does this perhaps indicate Shakespeare's intention that the phrase ſhould be ſpoken without pauſe as if it meant "to die in order to ſleep"?

- 71 F. *poore mans*. Wilson ſuggests that the ſcribe miſunderſtood *contumely* as ſomething to be endured, which is a poſſible Elizabethan ſenſe; ſee *N.E.D.*, *Contumely* 3.

- 72 Q. *deſpiſ'd*, F. *diſpriz'd*. Editors are diuided. Wilson in the *Cranach Hamlet* followed Q.; but noted that it is more likely that Shakespeare wrote *diſpriz'd* and the Q. printer dropped the *r* than that the ſcribe ſhould have invented *diſpriz'd*. In the Cambridge *Hamlet* he adopts the F. form. The rule of *durior lectio* ſeems to tip the ſcale in favor of F. eſpecially if we imagine Shakespeare writing *diſpriz'd* with an undotted *i* which the printer miſtook for *e* and ſo read the word as *deſpiſ'd*.

- 74 F. *the vnworthy*.

- 75 Q. *quietas*, miſreading *u* as *a*; F. *Quietus*, in italics.

- 76 F. *would theſe Fardels*, probably an actor's alteration for emphasis.

- 83 Q. has an unneceſſary comma after *cowards* and omits *of us all*, ſupplied from F.

- 84 Q. *hiew*; F. *hew*. The quaint ſpelling of Q. was not unknown in Shakespeare's day.

- 85 Q. *fickled*; F. *ficklied*, variant ſpellings. Wilson thinks the Q. printer may have dropped the ſecond *i*.

And enterprifes of great pitch and moment,
 With this regard theyr currents turne awry,
 And loofe the name of action. Soft you now,
 The faire *Ophelia*, Nimph in thy orizons

90 Be all my finnes remembred.

Oph. Good my Lord,

How does your honour for this many a day?

Ham. I humbly thanke you well, well, well.

Oph. My Lord, I haue remembrances of yours
 That I haue longed long to redeliuer,
 I pray you now receiue them.

Ham. No, not I, I neuer gaue you ought.

Oph. My honor'd Lord, you know right well you did,
 And with them words of so sweet breath compofd
 As made the things more rich, their perfume loft,

100 Take thefe againe, for to the noble mind
 Rich gifts wax poore when giuers prooue vnkind,
 There my Lord.

Ham. Ha, ha, are you honeft?

Oph. My Lord.

Ham. Are you faire?

Oph. What meanes your Lordship?

Ham. That if you be honeft & faire, your Honefty fhould
 admit no difcourfe to your beautie.

86 F. *pitch*, followed by many editors, but *pitch*, i.e. height, repeatedly used by Shakespeare with reference to falconry (see *Diary of Master William Silence*, p. 194), is no doubt the right word.

87 F. *away*, a scribal or printer's error.

89 For the Q. comma after *Ophelia*, F. has a question mark for exclamation.

92 F. supplies the characteristic triple repetition, wanting in Q. which has only one *well*.

95 F. *No, no, I neuer*, which looks like careless transcription.

97 F. *I know*. Wilson calls this a compositor's slip.

99 Q. *these things*; F. *the things*. At first sight it would seem that here as elsewhere F. is avoiding the demonstrative pronoun of Q. (cf. 1.1.160; 1.2.21 and elsewhere); but *these things* gives an awkward rhythm to the line, and it is quite possible, as Wilson suggests, that the printer's eye was attracted to *these* in the next line.

F. *then perfume left*. The scribe may have been tampering with the text here; after *more rich* he may have felt that the comparative *then* was better than *their* and, having made that change, he altered *loft* to *left* to complete what he took to be the sense. Yet both changes may be unintentional scribal errors.

102 Q. has a period after *Honest*; the question mark is supplied from F.

107-8 Q. *you should*; F. *your Honefty should*, evidently, as *Ophelia's* reply shows, the correct reading. Wilson suggests that the Q. printer dropped

110 *Oph.* Could beauty my Lord haue better comerfe
Then with honeftie?

Ham. I truly, for the power of beautie will fooner transforme honeftie from what it is to a bawde, then the force of honeftie can tranſlate beautie into his likenes, this was ſome-time a paradox, but now the time giues it prooffe, I did loue you once.

Oph. Indeed my Lord you made me belieue ſo.

Ham. You ſhould not haue beleeu'd me, for vertue cannot fo
120 enoculat our old ſtock, but we ſhall reliſh of it, I loued you not.

Oph. I was the more deceiued.

Ham. Get thee to a Nunry, why would'ſt thou be a breeder of finners? I am my ſelfe indifferent honeſt, but yet I could accuſe mee of ſuch things, that it were better my Mother had not borne mee: I am very proude, reuengefull, ambitious, with more offences at my beck, then I haue thoughts to put them in,
130 imagination to giue them ſhape, or time to act them in: what ſhould ſuch fellows as I do crawling betweene earth and heauen, wee are arrant knaues all, beleue none of vs, goe thy waies to a Nunry. Where's your father?

Oph. At home my Lord.

Ham. Let the doores be ſhut vpon him, that he may play the foole no where but in's owne houſe, farewell.

Oph. O helpe him you ſweet heauens.

140 *Ham.* If thou dooſt marry, Ile giue thee this plague for thy dowrie, be thou as chaſt as yce, as pure as ſnow, thou ſhalt not eſcape calumny; get thee to a Nunry, farewell. Or if thou wilt

honesty and miscorrected *your ſhould to you ſhould*. The garbled Q₁ text, *your beauty ſhould*, ſupports F.

111 F. *your Honeſtie?*. Perhaps another inſtance of ſcribal alteration. Yet with written *w^t* might be miſread as *y^r* and ſet up as *your*.

120 Photostatic reproductions of the three copies of Q. (1604) ſhow a word which may be read as either *euoculat* or *enoculat*, probably the former, *u* for *n* miſprint. There can be no doubt that the ſixth letter is a *t* which has been altered in the Griggs facſimile to an *l*. The F. *innoculate* gives the true word.

122 Q. omits **to** before **Nunry**, ſupplied from F.

123 Q. has a comma; F. the neceſſary queſtion mark after **finners**.

131 F. ſhows the more familiar phrase *Heauen and Earth*.

Q. omits **all** after **knaues**, ſupplied from F.

136-8 Q. prints theſe lines as verſe, diuiding: **Let . . . him/ That . . . houſe/ and /Farewell**; F. correctly as proſe.

136 F. *no way, but*, probably a printer's error.

142 F. *Nunnery. Go, Farewell. Go* may be the ſcribe's anticipation of this word two lines below. Wilson, who follows F. here, thinks the Q. printer dropped *go*.

needes marry, marry a foole, for wife men knowe well enough what monfters you make of them: to a Nunry goe, and quickly to, farewell.

Oph. Heauenly powers reftore him.

Ham. I haue heard of your paintings well enough, God hath
 150 giuen you one face, and you make your felfes another, you gig, you amble, and you lifpe, you nickname Gods creatures, and make your wantonnes your ignorance; goe to, Ile no more on't, it hath made me madde, I fay we will haue no mo marriage, thofe that are married alreadie, all but one fhall liue, the reft fhall keep as they are: to a Nunry go. *Exit.*

Oph. O what a noble mind is heere orethrowne!
 The Courtiers, fouldiers, fchollers, eye, tongue, fword,
 160 Th'expectanfie, and Rofe of the faire ftate,

147 The F. *O* before **Heauenly powers** may be the scribe's reminiscence of a similar ejaculation in l. 139.

149-50 Greg (p. 62) suggests that something had gone wrong at this point in the ms. that lay before the scribe of F.; his *prattlings* for Q. **paintings**, and his *pace* for Q. **face**, are sheer guesses, suggested respectively by **lifpe** and **gig** (F. *gidge*) both in l. 151. On the other hand Q. omits *too* after *paintings*. As the sense is perfect without this word it might be regarded as an actor's addition for emphasis.

150 F. *your felfe*, a scribe's or compositor's error.

For Q. *& amble*; F. has **you amble**, followed by most editors. It is possible that the Q. printer set up *you gig amble* and that a corrector inserted the *&* instead of the missing **you**.

151 Q. *you list you nickname*; F. *you lifpe*, and *nickname* followed by most editors. The two preceding verbs *gig* and *amble* almost demand a following pair like *lifpe* and *nickname*. Elizabethan satire often mocks the affectation of lisping and this in turn suggests nicknaming.

152 Q. omits **your** before *ignorance*, supplied from F. The insertion of this word improves both sense and rhythm and it seems probable that it was carelessly dropped by the Q. printer.

154 F. *no more marriages*. Most editors follow F., but Q. gives a perfectly satisfactory sense. Perhaps the scribe who "corrected" **mo** (a good Shakespearean word) to *more* went on to alter **marriage** to *marriages* under the influence of the plural **those** which immediately follows.

159 Q. and F. agree on the order **Courtiers, soldiers, schollers**. Many editors follow the arrangement of Q., i.e. *Courtier, Schollor, Souldier*, so as to correspond with order of the following *eye, tongue, sword*. It is inadvisable to abandon the agreement of the two good texts to obtain an exact correspondence which may not have been meant by the author.

160 Q. *Th' expectation*; F. **Th' expectanfie**, followed by nearly all editors. The rhythm of Q. is awkward and demands an accentuation of *expectation* other than that found where this word appears elsewhere in Shakespeare. It is more likely, as Wilson suggests, that we have a misprint in Q.; the

The glaffe of fashion, and the mould of forme,
Th'obferu'd of all obferuers, quite quite downe,
And I of Ladies moft deiect and wretched,
That fuckt the honny of his Muficke vowes;
Now fee that noble and moft foueraigne reafon
Like fweet bells iangled out of time, and harfh,
That vnmatcht forme, and Feature of blowne youth
Blafted with extacie, ô woe is mee
T'haue feene what I haue feene, fee what I fee.

Exit,

Enter King and Polonius.

- 170 *King.* Loue? his affections doe not that way tend,
Nor what he fpake, though it lackt forme a little,

printer saw the syllables *expect-* and finished the word in the usual fashion; *expectation* is a more familiar word than *expectantie*, which, however, is used elsewhere by Shakespeare, as in *Oth.*, 2.1.41.

- 162 F. places a comma after the first *quite* which seems unnecessary.

- 163 F. *Have I*, a scribal error which destroys the sense.

- 164 Q. *mufickt*; F. *Muficke*, followed by all editors. The Q. reading is tempting, but *N.E.D.* gives no instance of music as a verb until c. 1713. Q. is probably an instance of misreading *e* as *t* or a misprint, since the *t* box and *e* box are close together in the type font.

- 165 Q. *what noble*; F. *that Noble*. F. is plainly correct; cf. *that unmatched forme*, l. 167. The Q. printer may have been misled by *what a noble*, l. 158 above.

- 166 Q. *time*; F. *tune*, followed by all editors. Wilson says Q. shows a minim misprint. On the other hand *time* is frequently used by Elizabethan authors in the sense of a musical measure, a rhythm; cf. *Ham.*, 3.4.140 and *Lucrece*, l. 1127. Liddell's note on *Mac.*, 4.3.235 cites many Elizabethan examples of *time* in this sense, one of which, Massinger's

The motion of the spheres are out of time

(*Roman Actor*, 2.1.227)

is a close parallel to the present passage. It is interesting to note in this connection that Mason, an early editor of Massinger, altered *time* in this passage to *tune* and was chastised for so doing by Gifford. The F. *tune* is a similar modernization.

- 167 Q. *ftature*; F. *Feature*, followed by most editors and no doubt correct. Q. shows a misreading of *f* as *s* and of *e* as *t*; *stature* cannot be right since in Shakespeare it always denotes height, whereas *feature* refers especially to the countenance; cf. *Tw. N.*, 3.4.387 and *K.J.*, 2.1.196.

- 169 Q. has an *Exit* for Ophelia after this line. F. cancels it as Ophelia remains on the stage to be addressed at l. 186 below. The fact that this same s.d. appears in Q. suggests that in Shakespeare's first revision of the old play he let Ophelia leave the stage here, and forgot to cancel the s.d. when he kept her on stage in the final form of *Hamlet*. The prompter probably attended to this; hence the correct version in F.

- 170 Q. has a comma after *Loue*; F. a question mark, which seems needed here.

- Was not like madnes, there's something in his foule
 Ore which his melancholy fits on brood,
 And I doe doubt, the hatch and the discloie
 VVill be some danger; which for to preuent,
 I haue in quick determination
 Thus fet it downe: he shall with speede to *England*,
 For the demaund of our neglected tribute,
 Haply the seas, and countries different,
 180 With variable obiects, shall expell
 This something fetled matter in his hart,
 Whereon his braines still beating puts him thus
 From fashon of himselfe. What thinke you on't?
Pol. It shall doe well. But yet doe I belieue
 The origin and comencement of his greefe
 Sprung from neglected loue: How now *Ophelia*?
 You neede not tell vs what Lord *Hamlet* said,
 We heard it all: my Lord, doe as you please,
 But if you hold it fit, after the play,
 190 Let his Queene-mother all alone intreate him
 To shew his griefe, let her be round with him,
 And Ile be plac'd (to please you) in the eare
 Of all their conference, if she find him not,
 To *England* send him: or confine him where
 Your wisedome best shall thinke.
King. It shall be so,
 Madnes in great ones must not vnwatcht goe. *Exeunt.*

172 F. has a period after *Madneffe*.

175 Note the Q. use of *for* to with the infinitive here and cf. note on 1.2.175 above. F. omits *for*.

178 F. has a colon after *tribute*.

182-5 Q. lines /Whereon . . . beating/Puts . . . himselfe/What . . . on't?/It . . . well./But . . . greefe/ Wilson suggests that the awkward arrangement of Q. may be due to a crowding of lines at the foot of a page in the ms. The F. lining followed in the text is preferable.

185 Q. *his greefe*; F. *this greefe*. The superfluous comma after *greefe* in Q. comes at the end of a line where the printer is tempted to set a punctuation mark. Q. *his* is preferable to F. *this*; cf. l. 191 below.

191 Q. *his griefe*; F. *his Greefes*. Editors are divided, but Q. is plainly correct. It repeats the phrase of l. 185 and Polonius is not referring to Hamlet's various grievances but to the specific *grief* (l. 185) which has caused his supposed madness.

192 The photostats show that the first letter of the last word in this line in Q. is a blurred *e*. The Griggs facsimile makes it look like a *c*. Viotor printed *care* in his first edition, following the facsimile but altered to *eare* in his second; cf. note on 4.5.90 below. F. has quite plainly and correctly *care*.

196 Q. *unmatcht*; F. *vnwatch'd*. Q. misreads *w* as *m*.

III. ii.

Enter Hamlet, and three of the Players.

Ham. Speake the speech I pray you as I pronounc'd it to you, trippingly on the tongue, but if you mouth it as many of our Players do, I had as liue the towne cryer spoke my lines, nor doe not saw the ayre too much with your hand thus, but vse all gently, for in the very torrent tempest, and as I may say, whirlwind of your passion, you must acquire and beget a temperance, that may giue it smoothnesse, ô it offends mee to the foule, to
10 heare a robusitious perwig-pated fellowe tere a passion to totters, to very rags, to spleet the eares of the groundlings, vwho for the most part are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumbe showes, and noise: I would haue such a fellow whipt for ore-dooing Termagant, it out Herods Herod, pray you auoyde it.

Player. I warrant your honour.

Hamlet. Be not too tame neither, but let your owne discretion
20 be your tutor, fute the action to the word, the word to the action, with this speccial obseruance, that you ore-steppe not the modestie of nature: For any thing so ore-doone, is from the purpose of playing, whose end both at the first, and novve, was and is, to holde as twere the Mirrour vp to nature, to shew vertue her owne feature; fcorne her own Image, and the very age and body of the time his forme and preffure: Now this ouer-done, or come tardie off, though it makes the vnskilfull laugh, cannot

Act 3, scene 2

The F. s.d. reads *two or three of the Players*, perhaps suggesting an economy of personnel.

1 Q. *pronoun'd*; F. *pronounc'd*. The Q. printer has dropped a letter.

2 Q. *our*; F. *your*, followed by many editors as an impersonal pronoun designating a familiar type; but Q. makes perfect sense. Cf. note on 1.5.167 where F. reads *our* and Q. *your*.

3 Both Q. and F. read *liue*, a common Elizabethan spelling of *live*.

4 F. *had spoke*; the *had* is repeated from the preceding phrase.

5 F. omits *with*, a printer's error at the beginning of the line in F.

7 F. inserts *the* before *whirlwind*, probably a scribal error.

10 F. *to see*, a scribal paraphrase.

F. *Pery-wig* modernizing *perwig*, a current Elizabethan spelling.

11 F. *tatters* modernizing a current Elizabethan spelling.

F. *split*, modernizing Q. *spleet*, a form used elsewhere by Shakespeare, as in *A. and C.*, 2.7.131.

14 F. *could*, a scribal alteration.

21 F. *ore-stop*, probably a printer's error.

22 F. *ouer-done*, a scribal alteration.

26 Q. omits *owne* before *feature*, supplied from F.

20 F. *make*, followed by most editors including Wilson who fails to note this variant. There is no need to regularize Shakespeare's grammar; he uses either the indicative or the subjunctive after *though*.

30 but make the iudicious greeue, the censure of the which one, must in your allowance ore-weigh a whole Theater of others. O there be Players that I haue seene play, and heard others prayse, and that highly, not to speake it prophanely, that neither hauing th'accent of Chriftians, nor the gate of Chriftian, Pagan, nor man, haue so strutted & bellowed, that I haue thought some of Natures Iornimen had made men, and not made them well, they imitated humanitie so abhominably.

40 *Player.* I hope we haue reform'd that indifferently with vs.

Ham. O reforme it altogether, and let those that play your clownes speake no more then is set downe for them, for there be of them that wil themselves laugh, to set on some quantitie of barraine spectators to laugh to, though in the meane time, some necessary question of the play be then to be considered, that's villanous, and shewes a most pittifull ambition in the foole

50 that vses it: goe make you readie. *Exit Players. Enter Polonius, Guyldensterne & Rosencrans.*

How now my Lord, will the King heare this peece of worke?

Pol. And the Queene to, and that presently.

31 *Q. censure of which; F. censure of the which.* Editors are divided, but most follow F. As the more unusual form it is probably what Shakespeare wrote. The Q. printer may have dropped *the*.

33 *Q. prayd; F. praise.* Q. misreads final *e* as *d*.

34 *F. the accent.*

36 *Q. Pagan, nor man; F. Pagan, or Norman.* Wilson explains the F. corruption by suggesting that the F. printer set up *Norman* for the *nor man* of his copy and "miscorrected" by prefixing *or* to make some show of sense. The Q. *Pagan, nor Turke* shows what was once spoken on Shakespeare's stage and has suggested various emendations such as *Musselman*, and *Ottoman*. The former of these words is not found in Shakespeare; the second occurs in *Oth.*, 1.3.49. The emendation *nor no man* is tempting, especially as the Q. printer is apt to drop little words like *no*, but it will not explain the presence of *Turke* in Q. We may retain the Q. reading and explain *nor man* as equivalent to any kind of man after the inclusive terms *Christian* and *Pagan*.

40 F. adds *Sir* to the Player's speech. Wilson says it is "demanded for the sake of politeness," but it may well be an actor's addition.

50 The s.d. *Exit Players* wanting in Q. is supplied from F. which sets it after *readie*. The following s.d. *Enter Polonius, Guyldensterne & Rosencrans* placed by Q. at the conclusion of Hamlet's speech is properly placed by F. before the words *How now my Lord*, addressed of course to Polonius. Shakespeare seems to have been careless of his s.d. at this point for Q. omits the necessary *Exit Polonius*, supplied from F. after l. 53. As usual the s.d. of F. show the hand of the prompter arranging for correct action on the stage.

Ham. Bid the Players make haft. *Exit Polonius.* Will you two help to haften the.

Rof. I my Lord. *Exeunt they two.*

Ham. What howe, *Horatio.* *Enter Horatio.*

Hora. Heere sweet Lord, at your seruice.

Ham. *Horatio*, thou art een as just a man,

60 As ere my conuerfation copt withall.

Hor. O my deere Lord.

Ham. Nay, doe not thinke I flatter,

For what aduancement may I hope from thee

That no reueneue haft but thy good spirits

To feede and clothe thee, why should the poore be flatterd?

No; let the candied tongue lick abfurd pompe,

And crooke the pregnant hindges of the knee

Where thrift may follow fauning; dooft thou heare,

Since my deare foule was miftris of her choice,

And could of men diftinguifh her election,

70 S'hath feald thee for herfelfe, for thou haft been.

As one in fuffring all that fuffers nothing,

A man that Fortunes buffets and rewards

53 Q. *thē*, using the macron to save space at the end of a long line. F. which lines /*Will . . . them?*/ prints the word in full.

54 F. *Both. We will my Lord.*, followed by the s.d. *Exeunt*. Wilson does not note this variant.

57 Q. *howe*; F. *hoa*, variant spellings of *ho*.

61 A careless error of the Q. printer confuses the text here. Horatio's speech, **O my deere Lord**, is the last line on the Q. page (G₄, recto); the catchword, **Ham. Nay**, is properly set below it in the margin, but the printer forgot to repeat **Ham.** on the next page, so that the lines from **Nay** (l. 61) to **feeming** (l. 92) are apparently spoken by Horatio, which is, of course, absurd. F. corrects this. See Wilson (*MS. of Hamlet*, pp. 128-9) for an elaborate explanation.

65 F. *like*, a printer's error.

67 F. *faining?*, the scribe's misreading.

68 F. *my choyse*, perhaps a repetition of *my* before *deare foule*.

69-70 F. *distinguiſh, her election Hath feal'd*.

Most editors follow F. making **election** the subject of **feal'd**; but Q. is plainly right. It is incredible that the Q. printer finding *Hath* in his copy should have altered it to such a form as **S'hath**, which, on the other hand, is just such a form as would tempt the normalizing scribe of F. to the "correction." Having made it, he altered the punctuation, setting a comma after **distinguiſh** to mark the new syntactical construction.

- Haft tane with equall thanks; and bleft are thofe
 Whofe blood and iudgement are fo well comedled,
 That they are not a pype for Fortunes finger
 To found what ftop the pleafe: giue me that man
 That is not paffions flauē, and I will weare him
 In my harts core, I in my hart of hart
 As I doe thee. Something too much of this,
 80 There is a play to night before the King,
 One fcene of it comes neere the circumftance
 Which I haue told thee of my fathers death,
 I prethee when thou feeft that act a foote,
 Euen with the very comment of thy foule
 Obferue my Vncle, if his occulted guilt
 Doe not it felfe vnkennill in one fpeech,
 It is a damned ghofth that we haue feene,
 And my imaginations are as foule
 As *Vulcans* ftithy; giue him heedfull note,
 90 For I mine eyes will riuet to his face,
 And after we will both our iudgements ioyne
 In cenfure of his feeming.
Hor. Well my lord,
 If a fteale ought the whilft this play is playing
 And fcape detecting, I will pay the theft.

- 73 *F. Hath*, followed by most editors, but this is another attempt of the scribe to correct Shakespeare's grammar. Shakespeare evidently thought of *thou*, l. 70, as the logical subject of *tane* and so wrote *haft tane* like *haft been*, l. 70.
- 74 *F. co-mingled*, followed by most editors, but again *F.* alters an unfamiliar to a more common word. *N.E.D.* gives only two instances of *comedled*, this and one in *The White Devil*, 3.3.145. Since Webster admired and imitated Shakespeare his use of *comedled* is a strong argument for the *Q.* form.
- 83 *F. a-foote*.
- 84 *F. my Soule*, a palpable error, but followed by some editors.
- 85 *F. mine Vncle*; cf. note on 1.5.41 above.
- 89 *F. Stythe*, a variant spelling.
F. needful, a printer's error.
- 92 *F. To cenfure*, a scribal alteration.
- 93 *F. he* for *Q. a*, a modernization.
- 94 *Q. detected*; *F.* correctly *detecting*. *Q.* is probably a printer's error.
- s.d. It is interesting to note the brevity of Shakespeare's s.d. after this line compared with the elaboration of *F.* Shakespeare provides for the entrance of the characters who are to speak in the following scene, and orders the King's entrance to be accompanied with music. *F.*, on the other hand, brings in the whole court with a guard bearing torches, in preparation for l. 280, and prescribes the music, *Danish March* followed by a flourish of trumpets. See *Introduction*, p. 53.

*Enter Trumpets and Kettle Drummes, King, Queene,
Polonius, Ophelia.*

Ham. They are comming to the play. I must be idle, Get
you a place.

King. How fares our coffin *Hamlet*?

Ham. Excellent yfaith,
Of the Camelions dish, I eat the ayre,
100 *Promiscram'd*, you cannot feede Capons fo.

King. I haue nothing with this answer *Hamlet*,
These words are not mine.

Ham. No, nor mine now my Lord.

You playd once i'th Vniuersity you say,

Pol. That did I my Lord, and was accounted a good Actor,

Ham. What did you enact?

Pol. I did enact *Iulius Cæsar*, I was kild i'th Capitall,
Brutus kild mee.

110 **Ham.* It was a brute part of him to kill so capitall a calfe
Be the Players readie? [there.]

Rof. I my Lord, they stay vpon your patience.

Ger. Come hether my deere *Hamlet*, sit by me.

Ham. No good mother, heere's mettle more attractiue.

Pol. O ho, doe you marke that.

Ham. Lady shall I lie in your lap?

120 *Ophe.* No my Lord.

Ham. Doe you thinke I meant country matters?

Oph. I thinke nothing my Lord,

Ham. That's a fayre thought to lye betweene maydes legs.

Oph. What is my Lord?

Ham. Nothing.

Oph. You are merry my Lord.

130 *Ham.* Who I?

Oph. I my Lord.

100 F. *promise-cramm'd*.

105 F. and Q. *That I did*, a change to the more usual order.

106 F. inserts *And* before *what*, perhaps an actor's alteration.

114 This is the first place where the speech-heading *Ger.* occurs instead of the usual *Quee(n)*. It reappears repeatedly in 3.4. The printer is probably following Shakespeare's inconsistent usage.

F. *my good Hamlet*, a scribal paraphrase.

121-2 *Hamlet's* line *I meane, my Head vpon your Lap?* and *Ophelia's* reply *I my Lord* are wanting in Q. They have been inserted in the text by most editors and Wilson sees an omission by the Q. printer here. But the lines may well be regarded as interpolation to give point to the preceding, *lie in your lap*.

Ham. O God your onely Iigge-maker, what should a man do but be merry, for looke you how cheerefully my mother lookes, and my father died within's two howres.

Oph. Nay, tis twice two months my Lord.

Ham. So long, may then let the deule weare blacke, for Ile haue a fute of fables; ô heauens, die two months agoe, and not
140 forgotten yet, then there's hope a great mans memorie may out-lieue his life halfe a yeere, but by'r Lady a must build Churches then, or els shall a suffer not thinking on, with the Hobby-horfe, whose Epitaph is, for ô, for ô, the hobby-horfe is forgot.

The Trumpets founds. Dumb show followes.

Enter a King and a Queene, the Queene embracing him, and he her, she kneeles and makes shew of Protestation vnto him, he takes her vp, and declines his head vpon her necke, he lyes him downe vppon a bancke of flowers, she seeing him aslepe, leaues him: anon come in an other man, takes off his crowne, kisses it, pours poyson in the sleepers eares, and leaues him: the Queene returnes, finds the King dead, makes passionate action, the poyfner with some three or foure come in againe, seeme to condole with her, the dead body is carried away, the poyfner wooes the Queene with gifts, shee seemes harsh awhile, but in the end accepts loue.

Oph. VVhat meanes this my Lord?

Ham. Marry this is miching Malhecho, it meanes mischiefe.

138 Q. *deule*, for *deule*; F. *Diuell*, variant spellings.

141 Q. *ber*, probably a misreading of F. *byr*.

141-2 F. *he* for Q. *a* in both lines.

143 For the Q. s.d. *The Trumpets founds*, F. has *Hoboyes play*. Apparently the prompter arranged for special music by wind instruments to introduce the Dumb Show instead of the usual blast of trumpets which was what Shakespeare prescribed.

Q. shewe followes.; F. *shew enters*.

In the first line of the Dumb Show the sentence *she kneels . . . him* is supplied from F. Something like it must have stood in Shakespeare's ms. since the phrase *he takes her up* in Q. implies her kneeling.

Further variations between Q. and F. in the Dumb Show are not noted here. The F. version shows considerable rewriting. Wilson's version in the Cambridge edition is a conflation of Q. and F. It is interesting to note that F. alters *condole* in this passage to *lament*; *condole*, a new word in Shakespeare's day, seems to have been regarded as rather ridiculous. Shakespeare puts it into the mouths of such comic characters as Bottom and Pistol; Chapman assigns it to the foolish Bassiolo (*Gent. Usher*, 3.2.432).

147 Q. *this munching Mallico*; F. *this is Miching Malicho*. Q. seems to have dropped *is*, although *this* may be Shakespeare's contraction of *this is*. The Q. printer misread *meeching* or *miching* as *munching*, a minim error suggesting a more familiar word. F. corrects this, but stumbles on the next

Oph. Belike this fhow imports the argument of the play.

Ham. We fhall know by this fellow, *Enter Prologue.*

The Players cannot keepe counfell, they'le tell all.

Oph. Will a tell vs what this fhow meant?

Ham. I, or any fhow that you will fhow him, be not you afhamed to fhow, heele not fhame to tell you what it meanes.

Oph. You are naught, you are naught, Ile mark the play.

Prologue. For vs and for our Tragedie,
160 Heere ftooping to your clemencie,
We begge your hearing patiently.

Ham. Is this a Prologue, or the pofie of a ring?

Oph. Tis breefe my Lord.

Ham. As womans loue.

Enter King and Queene.

King. Full thirtie times hath *Phebus* cart gone round
Neptunes falt wafh, and *Tellus* orb'd ground,
And thirtie dofen Moones with borrowed fheene
About the world haue times twelue thirties beene
Since loue our harts, and *Hymen* did our hands
170 Vnite comutuell in moft facred bands.

word. There is no such word in English as *Mallico* (Q.) or *Malicho* (F.). Possibly Shakespeare had picked up the Spanish *malhecho* = misdeed, and meant to put it into Hamlet's mouth. Shirley, who may have borrowed it from Shakespeare, introduces the word in his *Gent. of Venice*, 3.2.135. A note in *T.L.S.* December 26, 1936, suggests a derivation from Romany *maleko* = beware.

F. *that* for Q. *it*, possibly a scribal alteration for emphasis.

151 F. *these fellows*, an arbitrary alteration. The scribe thought the phrase referred to **the Players** which follows and not to the **Prologue** whose entrance is deferred in F. to l. 158. A like alteration appears in l. 153 below where for Q. **a** (he) F. reads *they*. In the next line, 154, however, the F. scribe fails to continue his alteration and writes **him** like the Q.

152 Q. omits **counfel**, supplied from F.

154 F. *you'l* for Q. **you will**.

164 s.d. F. has *his Queene* in the s.d. after this line.

166 Q. *Tellus orb'd the ground*; F. correctly **Tellus Orbed ground**. It is not easy to account for the curious corruption of Q. Wilson attributes it to a corrector of the press who took **orbed** to be a transitive verb governing **ground**; to make this clear he inserted *the* before **ground**, and deleted *the* **e** in **orbed** to make the word monosyllabic and preserve the meter. It is quite as likely that the error was due to the Q. printer, badly confused by the group of mythological names.

- Quee.* So many iourneyes may the Sunne and Moone
 Make vs againe count ore ere loue be doone,
 But woe is me, you are fo ficke of late,
 So farre from cheere, and from your former state,
 That I distrust you, yet though I distrust,
 Discomfort you my Lord it nothing must.
For women feare too much, euen as they loue,
And womens feare and loue hold quantitie,
 In neither ought, or in extremitie,
 Now what my loue is prooffe hath made you know,
 180 And as my loue is ciz'd, my feare is fo,
 Where loue is great, the litlest doubts are feare.
 Where little feares grow great, great loue growes there.

171 Q. has *Quee.*; F. *Bap.* or *Bapt.* (except in l. 237 where it has *Qu.*) as the speech-heading for the Player Queen. The change was probably made by the prompter to distinguish between this actor and the boy who played Gertrude.

173 Q. has an unnecessary comma after *are*.

174 Q. *our former*; F. *your forme*; *your* is of course correct, but the F. printer has dropped the last letter in *former*.

177 Q. has here a line

For women feare too much, euen as they loue

which does not rhyme with what precedes or follows and is omitted in F. and by most modern editors. It is possible that the trouble is due to Shakespeare who may have first written and then cancelled the line, but so imperfectly that the Q. printer read it and accordingly set it up, whereas the F. scribe noted the deletion and omitted it. In this case it would be Shakespeare who wrote *For* over a cancelled *And* at the beginning of the next line—cf. note on l. 178. Yet Q. gives good sense as it stands and we may suppose Shakespeare capable of slipping an unrhymed line into a passage in heroic couplets, or even of forgetting to tie up this line with rhyme while revising and expanding the original version preserved in Q.

178 Q. *And womens*; F. *For womens*; see preceding note. Q. *hold*; F. *holds*, a scribal alteration not noted by Wilson.

178 Q. *Eyther none, in neither ought, or in extremitie*. F. omits *Eyther none* and so gives a regular line. It is possible to scan the Q. line by taking *Eyther* as monosyllabic and giving the line a double feminine ending. Wilson suggests that here as just above the trouble is due to the poet's ms. Shakespeare may have written *Eyther none* with the idea of continuing at *all or in extremitie*, and then substituted *In neither ought*, cancelling his first phrase so imperfectly that the Q. printer read and set it up.

179 Q. *Lord*; F. correctly *loue*. The Q. printer misread *u* as *r* and final *e* as *d* and having made this error capitalized the word. F. has a comma after *is*.

180 F. *fis'd*, modernizing the spelling.

181-2 F. omits these lines, probably a deliberate cut by either prompter or scribe.

King. Faith I must leaue thee loue, and fhortly to,
My operant powers their functions leaue to do,
And thou fhalt liue in this faire world behind,
Honord, belou'd, and haply one as kind,
For husband fhalt thou.

Quee. O confound the reft,
Such loue muft needes be treafon in my breft,
In fecond husband let me be accurft,

190 *None wed the fecond, but who kild the firft.* *Ham.* That's
The inftances that fecond marriage moue wormwood
Are bafe refpects of thrift, but none of loue,
A fecond time I kill my husband dead,
When fecond husband kifles me in bed.

King. I doe belieue you thinke what now you fpeake,
But what we doe determine, oft we breake,

Purpofe is but the flauē to memorie,
Of violent birth, but poore validitie,

200 Which now, the fruite vnripe, fticks on the tree,
But fall vnfhaken when they mellow bee.

Moft neceffary tis that we forget
To pay our felues what to our felues is debt,
What to our felues in paffion we propofe,
The paffion ending, doth the purpofe lofe,
The violence of eyther, grieve, or ioy.

184 F. *my Functions*; the scribe probably repeats *my* from the first word of the line.

187 Q. has a period; F. a dash after *thou*. The Q. pointing is a common Elizabethan method of indicating an interrupted speech; cf. 4.7.107 below.

191 Q. prints *Ham. That's wormwood* in the right hand margin; F. prints *Ham. Wormwood, Wormwood* in the body of the text; cf. l. 234 below. Possibly Shakespeare reviewing what he had written added this speech and the later aside (l. 234) to Hamlet's role in the margin of his ms. as they appear in Q. In both cases the F. scribe regularizes by transferring them to the body of the text. Wilson thinks that the repetition of *wormwood* in Q. shows that this word was so repeated on the stage and that here we have a double omission, F. dropping *That's* and Q. the second *wormwood*. It is perhaps easier to believe that the repetition of the word in F. is due to an actor's desire to add emphasis to the phrase.

196 F. sets a period after *believe you* which destroys the sense.

200 F. *like Fruite*, followed by most editors, even by Wilson who in the Cranach *Hamlet* defended Q., but in the Cambridge edition follows F. If the phrase, *the fruite vnripe*, be taken as a nominative absolute, the Q. text is intelligible and perhaps more in accord with the stilted style of the *King's* speech than the easier reading of F. It is therefore set off by commas in this text.

206 F. *other*, an *e* misread as *o*.

- Their owne ennactures with themfelues deftroÿ,
 Where ioy moſt reuels, grieve doth moſt lament,
 Greefe ioyes, ioy griefes, on flender accedent,
 210 This world is not for aye, nor tis not ſtrange,
That euen our loues ſhould with our fortunes change:
 For tis a queſtion left vs yet to proue,
 Whether loue lead fortune, or els fortune loue.
 The great man downe, you marke his fauourite flyes,
 The poore aduaunc'd, makes friends of enemies,
 And hetherto doth loue on fortune tend,
 For who not needes, ſhall neuer lacke a friend;
 And who in want a hollow friend doth try,
 Directly ſeaſons him his enemy.
 220 But orderly to end where I begunne,
 Our wills and fates doe fo contrary runne,
 That our deuifes ſtill are ouerthrowne,
Our thoughts are ours, their ends none of our owne,
 So thinke thou wilt no ſecond husband wed,
 But die thy thoughts when thy firſt Lord is dead.
 Quee. Nor earth to me giue foode, nor heauen light,
 Sport and repoſe lock from me day and night,
 To deſperation turne my truſt and hope,
 An Anchors cheere in priſon be my ſcope,
 230 Each oppoſite that blancks the face of ioy,
 Meete what I would haue well, and it deftroÿ,
 Both heere and hence purſue me laſting ſtrife, *Ham.* If ſhe
 If once I be a widdow, euer I be a wife. [ſhould breake it now.

- 207 F. *ennactors*, probably to be regarded as a variant ſpelling of the Q. *ennactures*, although not recorded as ſuch in *N.E.D.*
 209 Q. *Greefe ioy*; F. *Greefe ioyes*. The Q. printer has been miſled by the following *ioy*. The verb of F. is required by the context.
 214 F. *favorites*, probably a ſcribal alteration to agree with the plural forms in the next line.
 226 F. *to give me*, a compositors careleſs inverſion.
 228-9 F. omits theſe lines. Wilson thinks this a deliberate cut. It is poſſible that they are a later inſertion by Shakeſpeare as they ſeem to interrupt the original connection of the paſſage. Theobald's emendation *An* for *Q.* *And* has been followed by all editors. It does not ſeem abſolutely neceſſary.
 233 F. *If once a widow, euer I be wife*. The regular line of F. has been followed by all editors. Greg ſuggests that the Q. text represents Shakeſpeare's firſt thought corrected by himſelf to the F. reading. But the inſtances of Shakeſpeare's "corrections" in F. are ſo rare and doubtful that it is hard to accept this as one. It is, of courſe, poſſible that the firſt *I be* in Q. is a printer's anticipation of the ſecond. Yet it is perhaps better to retain the Q. text, treat *euer* as a monosyllable, and ſcan the line as an Alexandrine fitly cloſing the Queen's ſpeech.

King. Tis deeply fworne, sweet leaue me heere a while,
My spirits grow dull, and faine I would beguile
The tedious day with fleepe.

Quee. Sleepe rock thy braine,
And neuer come mischance betweene vs twaine. *Exit.*

Ham. Madam, how like you this play?

240 *Quee.* The Lady doth protest too much mee thinks.

Ham. O but fhee'le keepe her word.

King. Haue you heard the argument? is there no offence in't?

Ham. No, no, they do but iest, poyfon in iest, no offence i'th

King. What doe you call the play? [world.]

Ham. The Moufetrapp, mary how? tropically, this play is the
250 Image of a murther doone in *Vienna, Gonzago* is the Dukes
name, his wife *Baptista*, you shall see anon, tis a knauifh peece of
worke, but what of that? your Maiestie, and wee that haue free
foules, it touches vs not, let the gauled Iade winch, our withers
are vnwrong. *Enter Lucianus.*

This is one *Lucianus*, Nephew to the King.

Oph. You are as good as a Chorus my Lord.

Ham. I could interpret between you and your loue
If I could see the puppets dallying.

Oph. You are keene my lord, you are keene.

232-3 Hamlet's aside is printed in two short lines in the right hand margin of
Q. F. puts it in the body of the text; cf. note on l. 190 above.

238 s.d., the Q. *Exeunt* is wrong since the Player King must remain on
the stage. If it comes from Shakespeare's ms., it is an interesting example
of his carelessness in such matters. F. has *Sleepes* (a direction for King);
Exit (direction for Queen). The prompter has cleared up the matter very
neatly.

240 F. *protests*, modernizing at the expense of meter.

249 Q. omits the question mark after *how*, supplied from F. Both Q. and F.
have *tropically*, meaning symbolically. Q.₁ reads *trapically* which gives
the Elizabethan pronunciation and emphasizes the punning suggestion of
the word.

253 QF. *winch*; Q.₁ *wince*, followed by modern editors, but *winch* is correct.
Shakespeare used the word elsewhere (*K.J.*, 4.1.8) in the same sense, i.e.
to shrink, to flinch. In Shakespeare's day *wince* meant to kick, as in the
phrase "to winse, kick, and spurn"; see *N.E.D.*, *sub* Wince, b. The first
instance of its modern meaning given in *N.E.D.* is 1748.

Q. *vnwrong*; F. *vrung*.

254 Q. sets the s.d. *Enter Lucianus* after Hamlet's speech; F. puts it on a
separate line between ll. 253-4. This is another case where Q. shows the
author's, F. the prompter's arrangement.

255 F. a good *Chorus*, a careless omission.

256 F. has a colon after *loue* which is far too heavy.

260 *Ham.* It would cost you a groning to take off mine edge.

Oph. Still better and worfe.

Ham. So you miftake your husbands. Beginne murtherer,
leauē thy damnable faces and begin, come, the croking Rauē
doth bellow for reuenge.

Luc. Thoughts black, hands apt, drugges fit, and time agree-
Confederate feafon els no creature feeing, [ing,

Thou mixture ranck, of midnight weedes collected,
VVith *Hecats* ban thrice blafted, thrice infected,

270 Thy naturall magicke, and dire property,
On wholfome life vfurps immediately.

Powres the poyfon in his eares.

260 F. *my edge*, contrary to F.'s usual practice of using *mine* before a vowel.

262 Both Q. and F. read **miftake**. Many editors follow Q., reading, *muft take*, which may be an actor's alteration to add point to Hamlet's previous speech, i.e. you must take your husbands with groaning. It is a tempting reading. If Shakespeare wrote *muftake*, or some such close juncture of the two words, both the Q. printer and the F. scribe may have read *mistake*. It is perhaps better to follow the reading of the two good texts and interpret *mistake* as "err in the choice of" with a reference to the marriage service in which the woman says: "I, M. take thee, N. to my wedded husband . . . for better, for worse."

F. omits **your** before **husbands** in this line.

Q. omits the ejaculation *Pox* found in F. before **leave** and introduced into the text by most editors. It is more likely that we have here an actor's interpolation than that the Q. printer omitted so striking a word. That it was spoken on Shakespeare's stage is shown by Q. reading: *a poxe*.

267 Q. *Confiderat*; F. **Confederate** which, of course, is right. Shakespeare uses this word elsewhere as in *C. of E.*, 4.4.105, and *Cym.*, 3.3.68.

269 Q. and F. **ban**; Q. *bane*. Greg notes: "Shakespeare had a trick of leaving out the final *e*. If he did so here the comparative familiarity of *ban* would aid in its retention by the scribe and compositors; but it is possible that Q. represents the stage tradition, preserving in performance the sense the author intended." This is possible, but it seems better to follow the agreement of the two good texts and read **ban**, i.e. curse.

Q. *inuected*, a printer's error; F. and Q. *infected*.

271 Qq. *ufurps*; F. *ufurpe*, an attempt by the scribe to correct Shakespeare's grammar. It needs no correction; *usurps* is a verb in the present indicative governed by *magicke* and *property*, not an imperative as the scribe and some later editors believed.

The s.d. after this line, wanting in Q., is supplied from F. Again we see the hand of the prompter.

Ham. A poyfons him i'th Garden for his estate, his names *Gonzago*, the story is extant, and written in very choice Italian, you shall see anon how the murtherer gets the loue of *Gonzagoes* wife.

Oph. The King rifes.

Ham. What, frighted with false fire?

Quee. How fares my Lord?

Pol. Giue ore the play.

280 *King.* Giue me some light, away.

Pol. Lights, lights, lights. *Exeunt all but Ham. & Horatio.*

Ham. Why let the ftrooken Deere goe weepe,

The Hart vngauled play,

For some must watch while some must sleepe,

Thus runnes the world away. Would not this fir & a forrest of feathers, if the rest of my fortunes turne Turk with me, with two provinciall Rofes on my raz'd thooes, get me a fellowship in a cry of players?

290 *Hora.* Halfe a fhare.

Ham. A whole one I.

For thou doost know oh *Damon* deere

This Realme difmantled was

Of *Ioue* himfelfe, and now raignes heere

A very very pacock.

272 F. *He* for Q. **A.**

F. *for's*; Q. *for his*.

274 F. omits **very**.

277 This speech of Hamlet's omitted in Q. is supplied from F. and Q.₁ Van Dam considers it an actor's interpolation, but it is hard to imagine an actor inventing so appropriate and characteristic a speech. It is easier to believe that the Q. printer dropped this line as he did many others. Q.₁ *fires?* has an unnecessary *s* but gives the needed question mark.

281 Q. gives this line to *Pol.* and is supported by Q.₁ which reads *Cor. Theking rises, lights hoe*. The F., followed by many editors, has the speech-heading *All*. This must represent a later alteration for stage effect to emphasize the most admired disorder of the scene.

285 F. *So* for Q. **Thus**, an arbitrary alteration.

289 Q. omits ~~two~~ before *prouincial*, supplied from F.

289 Q. omits *fir* at the end of this line. Possibly the F. scribe repeats it from l. 286.

295 Q. *paiock*; F. *Paiocke*. Shakespeare probably wrote **pacock**, a recognized Elizabethan spelling. Printer and scribe both mistook his *c*, a straight stroke in English script, for an *i*. Some editors print the nonsense word *pajock*, but peacock, the symbol of vanity and lust, suits the context admirably.

Hora. You might haue rym'd.

Ham. O good *Horatio*, Ile take the Ghosts word for a thousand pound. Did't perceiue?

Hora. Very well my Lord.

300 *Ham.* Vpon the talke of the poyfning.

Hor. I did very well note him.

Ham. Ah ha, come some musique, come the Recorders,
For if the King like not the Comedie,
Why then belike he likes it not perdy.
Come, some musique.

Enter Rosencrans and Gylidensterne.

Guyl. Good my Lord, voutsafe me a word with you.

Ham. Sir a whole historie.

310 *Guyl.* The King fir.

Ham. I fir, what of him?

Guyl. Is in his retirement meruillous distempred.

Ham. With drinke fir?

Guyl. No my Lord, with choller.

Ham. Your wifedome shoud shewe it selfe more richer to
signifie this to the Doctor, for, for mee to put him to his purgation, would perhaps plunge him into more choller.

320 *Guyl.* Good my Lord put your discourse into some frame,
And start not so wildly from my affaire.

Ham. I am tame fir, pronounce.

Guyl. The Queene your mother in most great affliction of spirit, hath sent me to you.

Ham. You are welcome.

302 F. places a s.d. *Enter Rosinrance and Gylidensterne* after l. 301. This is a prompter's arrangement.

F. reads *Oh, ha?* for Q. *Ah, ha*, and *y^e* for *the*.

315 F. inserts *rather* before *with choller*, probably an actor's interpolation; cf. l. 319 below. Wilson says, "*rather* adds a touch of veiled menace," but this from the smooth-spoken courtier seems unlikely.

Q. has a comma after *choller*; the period is supplied from F.

318 F. *his Doctor*, followed by many editors, but probably the scribe's alteration for greater precision.

319 F. inserts *farre* before *more choller*; probably an actor's interpolation; cf. l. 315 above. Wilson, who retains *rather* in that line, ascribes *farre* to the scribe's recalling *rather*.

321 Q. *stare*; F. correctly *start*. Q. shows the common misreading of *t* as *e*.

Guyld. Nay good my Lord, this curtesie is not of the right
breede, if it shal please you to make me a wholfome aunfwere,
330 I will doe your mothers commaundement, if not, your pardon
and my returne, shal be the end of my busines.

Ham. Sir I cannot.

Rof. What my Lord?

Ham. Make you a wholfome answer, my wits diseased, but
fir, such answers as I can make, you shall command, or rather
as you say, my mother, therefore no more, but to the matter, my
mother you say.

Rof. Then thus she says, your behaviour hath strooke her
into amazement and admiration.

340 Ham. O wonderful sonne that can so astonish a mother, but is
there no sequell at the heeles of this mothers admiration? impart.

Rof. She desires to speak with you in her closet ere you go
to bed.

Ham. We shall obey, were she ten times our mother, haue
you any further trade with vs?

Rof. My Lord, you once did loue me.

Ham. And doe still by these pickers and stealers.

350 Rof. Good my Lord, what is your cause of distemper? you
do surely barre the doore vpon your owne liberty if you deny
your griefes to your friend.

Ham. Sir I lacke aduancement.

331 Q. omits **my** before **business**, supplied from F. It seems necessary here.

333 Q. has a period after **Lord**; the question mark is supplied from F. which
assigns the speech to **Guild**. This assignment is followed by most editors,
but Capell long ago noted that Guyld. had withdrawn after his last speech.
Rosencrans takes up the dialogue here and continues it even in the F. text
as far as l. 363 when Hamlet turns to Guyldensterne.

334 F. *answers*, an unnecessary plural as often in F.

335 F. omits **as** before **you say**.

340 F. *astouish*, a modernization, but **astonish** is a good Elizabethan form.

342 F. has a question mark after **admiration**, which seems needed, and omits
impart.

348 F. *So I do still*, an arbitrary alteration.

350 Q. has a comma after **distemper**; the question mark is supplied from F.
F. *freely*, a scribal error.

351 F. of for Q. **upon**, an arbitrary alteration.

Rof. How can that be, when you haue the voyce of the King himselfe for your fuccesfion in Denmarke.

Enter the Players with Recorders.

Ham. I fir, but while the graffe growes, the prouerbe is
360 fomething mufty, ô the Recorders, let mee fee one, to withdraw with you, why doe you goe about to recouer the wind of mee, as if you would driue me into a toyle?

Guyl. O my lord, if my duty be too bold, my loue is too vnmanerly.

Ham. I do not wel vnderftand that, wil you play vpon this pipe?

Guyl. My lord I cannot.

Ham. I pray you.

Guyl. Beleeue me I cannot.

370 *Ham.* I doe befeech you.

Guyl. I know no touch of it my Lord.

Ham. It is as eafie as lying; gouerne thefe ventages with your fingers, & thumb, giue it breath with your mouth, & it wil difcourfe moft eloquent mufique, looke you, thefe are the ftops.

Guil. But thefe cannot I commaund to any vttrance of harmonie, I haue not the skill.

380 *Ham.* Why looke you now how vnwoorthy a thing you make of me, you would play vpon mee, you would feeme to know my ftops, you would plucke out the hart of my miftery, you would

355 F. places the s.d. after this line two lines lower, altering it to *Enter one with a Recorder*, a change for stage economy so as to require only one actor with one instrument. But recorders were usually made and played in sets (see *Shakespeare's England*, Vol. II, p. 131) and Shakespeare no doubt meant to bring the company's set upon the stage. It is unusual to find F. postponing entrances as here.

360 F. alters the text here to agree with the altered s.d. reading *Recorder* and omitting the word *one*.

372 F. 'Tis, an arbitrary alteration.

373 Q. *fingers & the umber*; F. *finger and thumb*. Wilson once explained the curious reading of Q. by supposing that the printer misread a final *s* in *thumbes* of his copy as *r*, misdivided the word into *th umber*, and finally set up *the umber*, possibly supposing *umber* to be some part of the recorder. None of the various meanings of *umber*, however, are possible here. In a pamphlet of corrections to his edition Wilson says that the recorder was played with one thumb only. The F. text is therefore correct.

375 F. *excellent Muficke*. The change is perhaps due to the scribe's anticipation of *Muficke, excellent*, l. 384.

found mee from my loweft note to the top of my compaffe, and there is much mufique excellent voyce in this little organ, yet cannot you make it fpeak, 'sbloud do you think I am eafier to be plaid on then a pipe? call mee what inſtrument you wil, though you fret me, yet you cannot play vpon me.

Enter Polonius.

390 God bleſſe you fir.

Pol. My Lord, the Queene would ſpeake with you, & preſently.

Ham. Do you ſee yonder clowd that's almoſt in ſhape of a Camel?

Pol. By th' maſſe and tis, like a Camell indeed.

Ham. Mee thinks it is like a Wezell.

Pol. It is backt like a Wezell.

Ham. Or like a Whale.

383 Q. omits the phrase **the top of**, ſupplied from F.

386 F. omits *fpeake*.

F. *Why* for Q. *s'bloud*, the cenſor's correction, and inserts *that* before I. Q. has a comma after **pipe**; the queſtion mark is ſupplied from F.

388 This is one of the rare caſes where Q.₁ helps in the reſtoration of the text. A comparison of the three readings ſhould make this clear.

Q.₁ *though you can frett mee, yet you cannot Play upon mee*

Q. *though you fret me not, you cannot play upon me*

F. *though you can fret me, you cannot play upon me*

F., followed by moſt editors, including Wilson, is plainly a well meant emendation of the corruption in Q.; it reſtores an omitted *can* before *fret* and deletes the Q. *not*, which ruins the ſenſe, for Hamlet was evidently "fretted" by Guyldenſterne. The queſtion ariſes, however, as to the preſence of this *not* in the Q. text. It is quite uſual for the Q. printer to omit ſhort words, rare for him to insert them if not in his copy. A glance at the Q.₁ text will explain. It gives us probably what Shakeſpeare wrote, certainly what was ſpoken on his ſtage. Preſumably the Q. printer careleſſly dropped *can*, miſread *yet* as *not* (ſee Greg, *Emend.*, p. 67) and punctuated accordingly. Certainly the Q.₁ text gives the beſt reading and ſerves to explain the corruption of Q. and the correction of F.

390 Q. and F. agree, probably for typographical reaſons, in placing the entry of Polonius after Hamlet's ſpeech to him.

393 F. *that* for Q. *yonder*, perhaps anticipating **that's** in the ſame line, as F. *like*, for Q. *of a*, anticipates **like** in the next line.

395 * F. *By' th' Miſſe*, and *it's like a Camell*, careleſſ alteration, and a poſſible purgation of Q. *maſſe* to a ſenſeleſſ *Miſſe*. Q. *By' th*, apoſtrophe error.

Pol. Very like a Whale.

400 *Ham.* Then I will come to my mother by and by,
They foole me to the top of my bent, I will come by & by,
Pol. I will, fay fo. *Exit.*

Ham. By and by is eafily faid. Leaue me friends.

Exeunt Ros. and Gylld.

Tis now the very witching time of night,
When Churchyards yawne, and hell it felfe breathes out
Contagion to this world: now could I drinke hote blood,
And doe fuch bitter bufines as the day
410 Would quake to looke on: foft, now to my moſher,
O hart loofe not thy nature, let not euer
The foule of *Nero* enter this firme bofome,
Let me be cruell, not vnnaturall,
I will ſpeake daggers to her, but vſe none,
My tongue and foule in this be hypocrites,
How in my words ſomeuer ſhe be Thent,
To giue them feales neuer my foule content. *Exit.*

399 Here as above (l. 61) the careless Q. printer has made a mess of his copy. Coming to the end of a page (H. recto) he set up the catchword, *Ham. Then*, but forgot to reset it at the top of the next page (H. verso). As a result Q. assigns ll. 400-04 to *Pol.*—which is absurd, and to make confusion more confounded continues him as speaker to the end of the scene, omitting his exit as well as that of *Ros.* and *Gylld.* F. clears up the text by repeating the speech headings for *Ham.* and *Pol.* in ll. 400, 403 and 404, and inserting an exit for *Pol.* after 404. Wilson (*M.S. of Hamlet*, pp. 190-1) discusses rather favorably the suggestion that l. 404 was meant to be spoken by *Ham.* with the pointing: *I will. Say so!* (Q. 1604 has a comma, not the period of the Griggs facsimile after *will.*) In his edition, however, he follows F. which seems the better reading.

F. rightly places the phrase *Leaue me friends* after *eafily faid*. Hamlet formally dismisses Rosencrans and Gylldensterne after the exit of Polonius; F. omits, however, to mark their departure by an s.d.—Wilson's added s.d. *the rest* (i.e. the Players with recorders) *go* has no authority in the texts and seems due to his idea that Hamlet would not address the courtiers as friends. It is likely that a crowded page of ms. here puzzled the Q. printer.

407 Q. *breakes*; F. correctly *breaths*. Wilson suggests that *breakes* may be a miscorrection of a misprint of Shakespeare's *breathes* where the Q. printer, dropping the *t*, had set up *breakes* which was naturally corrected to *breakes*.

409 Q. *business as the bitter day*, a common printer's error of transposition. The correct reading is supplied from F.

414 Q. *dagger*, dropping final *s*; F. correctly *daggers*.

III. iii. *Enter King, Rosencrans, and Gylidensterne.*

King. I like him not, nor stands it safe with vs
To let his madnes range, therefore prepare you,
I your commiſſion will forth-with diſpatch,
And he to *England* ſhall along with you,
The termes of our eſtate may not endure
Hazard fo neer's as doth hourelly grow
Out of his braues.

Gyl. We will our felues prouide,
Moſt holy and religious feare it is
To keepe thoſe many many bodies ſafe
10 That liue and feede vpon your Maieſtie.

Rof. The fingle and peculier life is bound
With all the ſtrength and armour of the mind
To keepe it ſelfe from noyance, but much more
That ſpirit, vpon whoſe weale depends and reſts
The liues of many, the ceſſe of Maieſtie
Dies not alone; but like a gulfe doth draw
What's neere it, with it, or it is a maſſie wheele

Act. 3, ſcene 3

6 Q. *neer's*, i.e. *near us*. F. *dangerous*, a needless change, but accepted by some editors. See note on l. 7 below.

7 Q. *browes*; F. *lunacies*. The Q. reading is nonsense; that of F. sheer guesswork, but accepted by many editors. Like *dangerous*, l. 6, it was possibly suggested to the corrector, whether prompter or scribe, by the king's speech in a somewhat similar connection (3.1.4) in which the phrase *dangerous lunacie* occurs.

Wilson's emendation *bravls* follows the *ductus litterarum* of Q. closely, necessitating only the misreading by the printer of *a* as *o* and *l* as *e*. An even closer following would be the word *braves* in the sense of bravadoes, insolent speeches. A good example of this meaning occurs in Heywood's *1 K. Ed. IV* (*Works*, Vol. I, p. 54) where a defiant rebel is adjured to "leave off these idle braves." Cf. *Troil. and Cres.*, 4.4.139 *this brave*, i.e., this insolent speech, also Hamlet's use of the word *bravery*, 5.2.79, to characterize the behavior of Laertes at Ophelia's grave. This term might well be applied by the King to Hamlet's behavior and insolent speeches in the play scene. Polonius (3.4.2) uses a milder term and calls them *pranks*.

14 For Q. *weale* F. has *ſpirit*, a repetition of the word earlier in the line.
15 Q. *ceſſe*; F. *ceafe*, a modernization. Shakespeare uses *ceſſe* elsewhere, as in *All's Well*, 5.3.72.

17 Q. *or it is*; F. *It is*, followed by most editors. Wilson calls Q. impossible and suggests that *or* may be a misprint for *o*. We may retain Q. and suppose that the euphuizing Rosencrans, after comparing the *ceſſe* of *Maieſtie* to a *gulf* (i.e. whirlpool) continues with another simile: *or it is a maſſie wheele* (cf. 2.2.517-18). The repetition of a figure of speech introduced by *or* is

Fixt on the fomet of the highest mount,
 To whose huge spokes, tenne thousand lesser things
 20 Are morteft and adioynd, which when it falls,
 Each small annexment, petty consequence
 Attends the boyftrous Ruine, neuer alone
 Did the King figh, but with a generall grone.
King. Arme you I pray you to this speedy viage,
 For we will fetters put about this feare
 Which now goes too free-footed.

Rof. We will haft vs. *Exeunt Gent.*

Enter Polonius.

Pol. My Lord, hee's going to his mothers clofett,
 Behind the Arras I'le conuay my felfe,
 To heare the proceffe, I'le warrant fhee'le tax him home,
 30 And as you fayd, and wifely was it fayd,
 Tis meete that fome more audience then a mother,
 Since nature makes them parcial, fhould ore-heare
 The fpeech of vantage; farre you well my Leige,
 I'le call vpon you ere you goe to bed,
 And tell you what I knowe. *Exit.*

King. Thankes deere my Lord.
 O my offence is ranck, it fmels to heauen,
 It hath the primall eldeft curfe vppon't,
 A brothers murther, pray can I not,
 Though inclination be as fharp as will,
 40 My ftronger guilt: defeats my ftrong entent,

common in Elizabethan English. In either text it is pronounced as a monosyllable.

18 QF. *fomnet*; cf. note on 1.4.70.

19 Q. *hough*; F. *huge*. Perhaps Shakespeare wrote some such variant as *hough*. N.E.D. gives *houge* and *hough(e)* as variants of *huge*. Yet in *Lucrece*, A. and C., 2.7.16, and *Temp.*, 2.2.21, Shakespeare spells it *huge*.

21 The comma after *annexment* wanting in Q. is supplied from F.

22 Q. *raine*; F. correctly *Ruine*. Q. shows the common *a* for *u* misprint.

23 Q. omits *with* supplied from F.

24 Q. *viage*, a recognized sixteenth century form. F. modernizes to *Voyage*.

25 Q. *about*; F. *upon*, followed by most editors, but Q. gives a good, perhaps a better sense; the fetters would be *about*, i.e. around, the legs of the personified *feare*.

26 Q. gives the words *We . . . us* to *Ros.*; F. to *Both*, a prompter's change.

29 This long line forced the Q. printer to crowd his words; hence his *fhee'llax*.

34 Q. has a period; F. correctly a comma after *bed*.

37 Q. *vppont*; F. *vppon't*.

40 Q. *entent*, a recognized variant; F. modernizes, *intent*.

- And like a man to double bufsines bound,
 I ftand in paufe where I fhall firft beginne,
 And both neglect, what if this curfed hand,
 Were thicker then it felfe with brothers blood,
 Is there not raine enough in the fweete Heauens
 To wafh it white as fnowe, whereto ferues mercy
 But to confront the viſage of offence?
And what's in prayer but this two fold force,
 To be foreftalled ere we come to fall,
 50 Or pardon'd being downe? then I'll looke vp.
 My fault is paſt, but oh what forme of prayer
 Can ferue my turne? forgiue me my foule murther,
 That cannot be ſince I am ftill poſſeſt
 Of thoſe effects for which I did the murther;
 My Crowne, mine owne ambition, and my Queene;
 May one be pardond and retaine th'offence?
 In the corrupted currents of this world,
 Offences guilded hand may ſhoue by iuſtice,
 And oft tis ſeene the wicked prize it ſelfe
 60 Buyes out the lawe, but tis not ſo aboue,
There is no ſhuffling, there the action lies
 In his true nature, and we our felues compeld
 Euen to the teeth and forehead of our faults
 To giue in euidence, what then, what reſts?
 Try what repentance can, what can it not,
Yet what can it, when one cannot repent?
 O wretched ſtate, ô boſome blacke as death,
 O limed foule, that ſtruggling to be free,
 Art more ingaged; helpe Angels, make affay,
 70 Bowe ſtubborne knees, and hart with ſtrings of ſteale,
 Be ſoft as finnewes of the new borne babe,
 All may be well.

Enter Hamlet.

- 46 F. has a question mark after **fnowe**, but none is needed till after **offence**.
 50 Q. *pardon*; F. correctly **pardon'd**. Perhaps Shakespeare wrote *pardond*, which, misread as *pardone*, was set up *pardon*.
 Q. has a comma after **downe**; the question mark is supplied from F. So also after **turne**, l. 52.
 58 Q. *showe*, a minim error; F. correctly **shoue**.
 64 Q. has commas after **then** and **reſts**; F. question marks in both places. Only the ſecond of theſe ſeems needed.
 69 Q. **ingaged**; F. *ingag'd*, perhaps to normalize the meter.
 There is no punctuation after **Angels** in Q.; the neceſſary comma is ſupplied from F.

Ham. Now might I doe it pat, now a is a-praying,
 And now Ile doo't, and fo a goes to heauen,
 And fo am I reuendgd, that would be scand,
 A villaine kills my father, and for that,
 I his fole fonne, doe this fame villaine fend
 To heauen.

Why, this is bafe and filly, not reuendge,
 80 A tooke my father grofly full of bread,

73 *Q. doe it, but now a is a praying*

F. do it pat, now he is praying

All editors accept the *F. pat* which is so much more fofcible than *Q. but* that it is hard to imagine it an actor's or scribe's alteration. Wilson suggests that the *Q.* printer misread *a* as *u*, as often happens, set up *put* and miscorrected to *but*, punctuating accordingly.

F. modernizes the first *a* in this line to *he* and omits the second, which should be connected with *praying* by a hyphen. Cf. l. 91 below.

75 *Q. reuendge; F. reueng'd.* *Q.* misreads final *d* as *e*. The spelling with internal *d* is not uncommon; cf. ll. 79, 84 below. The comma after *scand*, wanting in *Q.*, is supplied from *F.*

77 *F. foule Sonne.* A ms. spelling *foule* (sole) has been misread as *foule*.

78 *F.* prints *To Heauen* as the first words of l. 79.

79 *F. Oh* for *Q. Why*, an actor's alteration.

Q. bafe and filly; F. hyre and Sallery, followed by all editors down to Wilson. He declares that *hyre* is plainly a conjecture for some indecipherable word in the ms. that lay before the scribe, and that *filly* of *Q.* is a misprint of *sallery* through an omission of letters. He reads therefore in the Cambridge edition

This is bait and salary, not revenge

There are, it would seem, rather strong objections to this emendation; it implies in the first place a double error by the *Q.* printer turning *bate*, a spelling Wilson assumes without sufficient authority, into *base* and reducing *fallery* to *filly*. Further it implies that while the *F.* scribe could read *fallery* in his copy he was so puzzled by *base* that he substituted for it *hyre*, a word with no graphical similarity, probably suggested by the following *fallery*, a word, by the way, which occurs nowhere else in Shakespeare.

It would seem better to let the *Q.* text stand and explain it. The killing of Claudius at prayer seems to Hamlet *base*, i.e. a low act, not of course from an ethical standpoint, but low in the sense of imperfect compared with the deed to be revenged; "He took my father grossly, full of bread, with all his crimes broad blown." The word *silly* seems repugnant to the modern ear in this context; but Shakespeare uses it repeatedly (*T. of S.*, 5.2.124; *R. II.*, 5.5.25; and *Lear*, 2.2.106) in the sense of feeble, foolish, senseless. Any one of these meanings would fit the context since to kill Claudius at prayer and send him to heaven would be a feeble, senseless act. If we retain *Q.* we must suppose the reading of *F.* to be the daring emendation of a scribe who, like modern editors, was dissatisfied with "base and silly."

80 *F. He* for *Q. A.*

With all his crimes broad blowne, as flufh as May,
And how his audit ftands who knowes faue heauen,
But in our circumftance and courfe of thought,
Tis heauy with him: and am I then reuendged
To take him in the purging of his foule,
When he is fit and feafond for his paffage?
No.

Vp fword, and knowe thou a more horrid hent,
When he is drunke afleepe, or in his rage,
90 Or in th'inceftious pleafure of his bed,
At game a-fwearing, or about fome act
That has no relifh of faluation in't,
Then trip him that his heels may kick at heauen,
And that his foule may be as damnd and black
As hell whereto it goes; my mother ftaiues, ..
This phifick but prolongs thy fickly daies. *Exit.*

King. My words fly vp, my thoughts remaine belowe,
Words without thoughts neuer to heauen goe. *Exit.*

III. iv. *Enter Gertrud and Polonius.*

Pol. A will come ftrait, looke you lay home to him,
Tell him his prancks haue beene too broad to beare with,
And that your grace hath fcreend and ftood betweene

81 *Q. Withall;* F. correctly **With all**.

Q. braod; F. **broad**; cf. 1.1.161 and 3.1.2.

F. frefh for *Q. flufh*, a scribal paraphrase.

87 F. prints *No.* as the last word in l. 86.

89 *Q. drunke, a fleepe;* F. **drunk afleepe**: followed by all editors. It seems to be required by the context since Hamlet wishes to catch his uncle in an act "that has no relish of salvation in't." The *Q. a fleepe*, i.e. sleeping, does not denote such an act, whereas the F. *drunk afleepe*, i.e. in a drunken slumber, gives what is needed. It seems that the *Q.* printer misunderstood the context and set a disturbing comma between *drunk* and *a fleepe*. On the other hand the colon after **afleepe** in F. is too heavy.

91 F. *At gaming, fwearing*, followed by most editors, but *Q.* gives good sense, i.e. swearing while at his game, cursing the cards or dice. Read **a-fwearing**.

97 The comma wanting after *belowe* in *Q.* is supplied from F.

Act 3, scene 4

1 *F. He* for *Q. A.*

2 *Q. braod;* F. **broad**; cf. 3.3.81 above.

Much heate and him, Ile filence me euen heere,
Pray you be round with him.

Ger. Ile warrant you, feare me not,
With-drawe, I heare him comming. *Enter Hamlet.*

Ham. Now mother, what's the matter?

Ger. Hamlet, thou haft thy father much offended.

10 Ham. Mother, you haue my father much offended.

Ger. Come, come, you anfwere with an idle tongue.

Ham. Goe, goe, you question with a wicked tongue.

Ger. Why how now Hamlet?

Ham. What's the matter now?

Ger. Haue you forgot me?

Ham. No by the rood not fo,

You are the Queene, your husbands brothers wife,
And would it were not fo, you are my mother.

Ger. Nay, then Ile fet thofe to you that can fpeake.

- 4 QF. *filence*. Many editors accept Hanmer's conjecture, *sconce*, which is supported by Q.1 *fhrowde*. But apart from the reading of the two good texts, *filence* is a better word; Polonius means to hide in silence; he breaks his silence and dies as a result. Carew in his translation of Tasso's *Godfrey* (1594, p. 13 of 1881 reprint) writes:

the old man silenst here

to mark the close of Peter's speech, a usage closely parallel to the present instance.

- 5 Q. omits *with him*, supplied from F. It seems necessary here; the phrase *round with him* is more idiomatic than the simple *round* of Q.; cf. *N.E.D.* *sub* round, 13.

Q. has the s.d. *Enter Hamlet* after the speech of Polonius and before the Queen's reply. This is, of course, too early and resembles the usual anticipatory stage directions of F. Here, however, F. rightly places the entrance of Hamlet after the Queen's speech.

Q. omits the F. line: *Ham. within. Mother, mother, mother* after l. 5. This seems very like an actor's interpolation to mark his entrance—Burbadge exaggerating Hamlet's trick of repetition—suggested, perhaps, by the Queen's words *I hear him*. A similar phrase in Q.1. *Mother, mother, O are you here?* shows that some such line was spoken on Shakespeare's stage.

- 6 Q. *wait*; F. correctly *warrant*; cf. note on 2.1.38 above.

- 12 F. *idle*, for Q. *wicked*, repeated from *idle* in the line above.

- 16 F. *But would you were not fo*. The scribe has been tampering with the text here. Thinking that Hamlet's wish, *would it were not fo*, referred to what he had just said, *your husband's brother's wife*, he altered *And* to *But*, it later in the line to *you*, and set a period after *fo*. Obviously this ruins the sense of the passage. Yet it has been followed by some editors.

- Ham.* Come, come, and fit you downe, you fhall not boudge,
 You goe not till I fet you vp a glaffe
 20 Where you may fee the inmoft part of you.
Ger. What wilt thou doe, thou wilt not murther me,
 Helpe how.
Pol. What how helpe.
Ham. How now, a Rat, dead for a Duckat, dead.
Pol. O I am flaine.
Ger. O me, what haft thou done?
Ham. Nay I knowe not, is it the King?
Ger. O what a rafh and bloody deede is this.
Ham. A bloody deede, almoft as bad, good mother
 As kill a King, and marry with his brother.
 30 *Ger.* As kill a King.
Ham. I Lady, it was my word.
 Thou wretched, rafh, intruding foole farwell,
 I tooke thee for thy better, take thy fortune,
 Thou find'ft to be too bufie is fome danger,
 Leaue wringing of your hands, peace fit you downe,
 And let me wring your hart, for fo I fhall
 If it be made of penetrable ftuffe,
 If damned cuftome haue not brafd it fo,
 That it be prooffe and bulwark againft fence. }
Ger. What haue I done, that thou dar'ft wagge thy tongue
 40 In noife fo rude againft me?
Ham. Such an act
 That blurres the grace and blufh of modefty,
 Cals vertue hippocrit, takes of the Rofe
 From the faire forehead of an innocent loue,

- 20 Q. *the moft*; F. *the inmoft*. Wilson suggests that Shakespeare wrote *thinmost* or *thenmost* and that the Q. printer misunderstood and misdivided the phrase. F. gives the required sense and true meter.
- 22 It is interesting to note that F. makes the Queen cry *helpe* twice and Polonius thrice, instead of the one call by each in Q. Wilson suspects a Q. omission here, but it seems more likely that we have to do with actors' interpolations.
- F. *hoa* for Q. *how* in both lines.
- 23 F. has a question mark after *Rat*. Hamlet's speech may be an exclamation as well as a question.
- 30 F. *'twas* for Q. *it was*, an alteration *metris causa*.
- 32 F. *thy Betters*. The singular *better* of Q. with its direct reference to the King is required by the context.
- 38 F. *is* for Q. *be*, an attempt to correct Shakespeare's grammar.

- And fets a blifter there, makes marriage vowes
 As falſe as dicers oathes, ô ſuch a deede,
 As from the body of contraction plucks ?
 The very foule, and ſweet religion makes
 A rapedy of words; heauens face dooes glowe ?
 And this ſolidity and compound maſſe
 50 With heated viſage, as againſt the doome
 Is thought-fick at the act
Quee. Ay me, what act
 That roares ſo lowd, and thunders in the Index?

- 44 F. *makes* for Q. *fets*, anticipating a second *makes* in the same line.
 48-51 A difficult passage. The Q. text

heauens face dooes glowe
Ore this ſolidity and compound maſſe
With heated viſage, as againſt the doome
Is thought ſick at the act

is plainly corrupt and leaves **Is thought sick** without a subject. F. 'emending *doth* for *dooes*, *Yea* for *Ore* and *tristfull* for *heated*, shows a brave attempt on the scribe's part to clear up the passage; it certainly makes better sense. It seems probable that a carelessly written *and* in Shakespeare's ms. was mistaken by the Q. printer for *ore*, an easy misreading in Elizabethan script (cf. note on l. 57 below), and that the F. scribe made the sense clear by substituting the emphatic *Yea*. It is, however, hard to explain the change of *heated* to *tristfull*; indeed Greg (M.L.R., Vol. XXX, p. 85) thinks *tristfull* the original and *heated* another Q. misprint.

With the alteration of *Ore* to *And* it is possible to explain the passage as follows: heaven's face glows (with shame) and this mass (the earth) reflecting in its heated surface the glow of heaven, as it will against the doom (before the Last Judgment), is sick at the thought of your act; in other words heaven and earth alike blush and are sickened by your act. It may be well to note that Wilson thinks the phrase **this solidity and compound maſſe**, refers to the moon and that the whole passage alludes to an eclipse of sun and moon. But this seems far-fetched: *this solidity* can hardly be the distant moon, rather it is the "sure and firm set earth" of *Mac.*, 2.1.56 and the notion that sun and moon blush at the Queen's deed seems less natural than that heaven and earth abhor it.

An emendation suggested by Pope 'Tis for **Is** in the last line of the passage has been accepted by some editors and gives a simpler construction and a possible sense: heaven's face glows o'er the earth; it (heaven) is sick at the thought of your act. On the whole it seems better to accept the emendation *And* for *Ore* and interpret as above.

Q. omits the hyphen in **thought-fick**, supplied from F. It is not unlikely that Shakespeare himself was responsible for this omission.

- 52 Q. prints *Ham.* as the speech-heading before this line instead of before l. 53 where it belongs. This error, possibly due to a careless placing of the speech-heading in the ms., led to the printer's placing a question mark after *act*, which he took to be the last word of the Queen's speech, and a comma after *Index* where the question mark should stand. F. corrects the assign-

- Ham.* Looke heere vpon this Picture, and on this,
 The counterfeit presentment of two brothers,
 See what a grace was feated on this browe,
Hiperions curls, the front of *Ioue* himselfe,
 An eye like *Mars*, to threaten and command,
 A ftation like the herald *Mercury*,
 New lighted on a heauen-kissing hill,
 60 A combination, and a forme indeede,
 Where euey God did seeme to fet his feale
 To giue the world affurance of a man,
 This was your husband, looke you now what followes.
 Heere is your husband like a mildewed eare,
 Blasting his wholfome brother, haue you eyes,
 Could you on this faire mountaine leaue to feede,
 And batten on this Moore; ha, haue you eyes?
 You cannot call it loue, for at your age
 The heyday in the blood is tame, it's humble,
 70 And waits vppon the iudgement, and what iudgement
 Would step from this to this, fence fure youe haue
 Els could you not haue motion, but fure that fence
 Is appoplext, for madnesse would not erre
 Nor fence to extacie was nere fo thral'd
 But it referu'd some quantity of choife

ment of speeches, but prints the Queen's speech as prose without a question mark. The correction was, no doubt, due to the prompter.

Q. *low'd*; F. *lowd*.

- 55 F. *his Brow*; as often F. avoids the use of the demonstrative pronoun.

- 57 F. *or* for Q. *and*; cf. note on ll. 48-51 above.

- 59 Q. *a heaue, a kissing hill*; F. *a heauen-kissing hill*. Evidently Shakespeare's final *n* in *heauen* looked like an *a* to the Q. printer who thereupon did the best he could—which made nonsense—with his copy by placing a comma after *heaue*, which he took to be an unfamiliar noun in apposition to *a kissing hill*. F. corrects.

- 64 Q. *mildewed*; F. *Mildew'd* to denote the dissyllabic pronunciation.

- 65 Q. *brother*; F. *breath*; an interesting example of the scribe's tampering with the text. The word *Blasting* led him to believe that *breath* rather than *brother* should follow it. He did not stop to consider the context.

- 67 Both, Q. and F. read *Moore*. Wilson thinks that the capitalization was meant to emphasize the pun; *moor* may mean "swamp" or "blackamoor," "negro."

Instead of Q's one question mark after *eyes* in this line, F. has four such marks, after *eyes* (l. 65) *Moore*, *Ha* and *eyes* (l. 67). F. is pointing * for the actor's benefit.

- 71-6 The words from *fence to difference* are omitted in F., a cut so deftly made that it has sometimes been ascribed to Shakespeare himself.

- To ferue in fuch a difference, what deuill waf't
 That thus hath cofund you at hodman-blind?
 Eyes without feeling, feeling without fight,
 Eares without hands or eyes, fmelling fance all,
 80 Or but a fickly part of one true fence
 Could not fo mope: ô fhamme where is thy blufh?
 Rebellious hell,
If thou canft mutine in a Matrons bones,
To flaming youth let vertue be as wax
And melt in her owne fire, proclaime no fhamme
When the compulfive ardure giues the charge,
 Since froft it felfe as actiue doth burne,
 And reafon panders will.
 Ger. O Hamlet fpeake no more,
O Thou turnft my eyes into my very foule,
 90 And there I fee fuch blacke and greined fots
 As will leaue there their tinct.

76 Q. *waf't*; F. *was't*.

77 Q. *hodman blind*; F. *hoodman-blinde*? The Q. *hodman* is an old spelling of *hoodman*; *hoodman-blind* means blindman's-buff and requires the hyphen. The question mark of F. is needed here.

78-81 F. omits the words **Eyes without . . . fo mope**; probably another cut to help the actor in this long and difficult speech. Here as elsewhere the cuts delete passages of more or less formal psychology. It has, indeed, been suggested that such passages were later inserted by Shakespeare in the ms. sent to the printer, but this seems hardly likely. It is necessary in this passage to delete the Q. comma after **hands** (l. 79) in order to make sense; **fance**, a sixteenth century spelling of *sans*, is found also in the Q. of *L.L.L.* (5.1.91) where F. has *sans*.

81-2 Q. prints **Rebellious hell**, as one short line. Most editors print **Could not so mope** as a short line and join **Rebellious hell** with **O Shame** etc., as in F., to make a full line. Van Dam deletes **Rebellious hell** and thereby ruins the sense of the passage.

88 F. *As* for Q. **And**, an arbitrary change.

Q. *pardons*; F. correctly **panders**. The Q. printer misread *n* as *r* and *e* as *o* and consequently set up a word which makes nonsense of the passage.

89 Q. *my very eyes into my foule*; F. *mine eyes into my very foule*. Q. shows the printer's error of transposition; cf. note on 3.2.409 above.

90 Q. *greened*; F. correctly **grained**. Shakespeare probably wrote *greined* and the Q. printer after misreading *n* as *u* corrected his *greined* to *greened* i.e. *grieved*.

91 Q. **As will leaue there their tin'ct**; F. *As will not leaue their Tinct*. Many editors, including Wilson, follow F.; but Q. gives perfect sense. F. reads like the emendation of the scribe offended by the repetition of *there*, *their*, a repetition and play on words quite in Shakespeare's manner. The strange form *tin'ct* in Q. is due to the printer who may have thought the word a participle; the capital *T* in F. emphasizes it as a noun.

Ham. Nay but to liue
In the ranck fweat of an infeemed bed
Stewed in corruption, honying, and making loue
Ouer the nafty ftie.

Ger. O fpeake to me no more,
Thefe words like daggers enter in my eares,
No more fweete *Hamlet*.

Ham. A murtherer and a villaine,
A flauie that is not twentieth part the tythe
Of your precedent Lord, a vice of Kings,
A cut-purfe of the Empire and the rule,
100 That from a fhelfe the precious Diadem ftole
And put it in his pocket.

Ger. No more.

Enter Ghost.

Ham. A King of fhreds and patches,
Saue me and houer ore me with your wings
You heauenly gards: what would your gracious figure?

Ger. Alas hee's mad.

Ham. Doe you not come your tardy foone to chide,
That lap'ft in time and pafion lets goe by
110 Th'important acting of your dream command? ô fay.

Ghost. Doe not forget, this vifitation
Is but to whet thy almoft blunted purpofe,
But looke, amazement on thy mother fits,
O ftep betweene her and her fighting foule,
Conceit in weakeft bodies ftrongeft workes,
Speake to her *Hamlet*.

Ham. How is it with you Lady?,

Ger. Alas how is't with you?
That you doe bend your eye on vacancie,

95 F. *mine cars*. Cf. note on 1.5.41 above.

97 Q. *twentieth*; F. *twentieth*, a modernization.

F. misprints *patt* for Q. *part*.

Q. *kyth*; F. correctly *tythe*. Some forms of *t* in Elizabethan script might easily be misread as *k*.

104 F. *you gracious figure*; the final *r* in *your* has been dropped by scribe or printer.

110 Q. has a comma after *command*; the question mark is supplied from F. Both Q. and F. print *ô* (F. *Oh*) *fay* at the end of this line, probably following Shakespeare's ms. Modern editors print it as a short line.

114 Both Q. and F. read *her, and her*; but the comma after the first *her* is useless and misleading.

116 In the Queen's speech Q. has *i't*; F. *is't*.

117 F. mars the meter by omitting *doe*.

- And with th'incorporall ayre doe hold discourse,
 Foorth at your eyes your spirits wildly peep,
 120 And as the fleeping fouldiers in th'alarme,
 Your bedded haire like life in excrements
 Start vp and stand an end, ô gentle sonne
 Vpon the heat and flame of thy diftemper
 Sprinckle coole patience, whereon doe you looke?
Ham. On him, on him, looke you how pale he glares,
 His forme and caufe conioynd, preaching to ftones
 Would make them capable, doe not looke vpon me,
 Leaft with this pittious action you conuert
 My ftearne effects, then what I haue to doe
 130 Will want true cullour, teares perchance for blood.
Ger. To whom doe you fpeake this?
Ham. Doe you fee nothing there?
Ger. Nothing at all, yet all that is I fee.
Ham. Nor did you nothing heare?
Ger. No nothing but our felues.
Ham. Why looke you there, looke how it fteales away,
 My father in his habit as he liued,
 Looke where he goes, euen now out at the portall. *Exit Ghost.*
Ger. This is the very coynage of your braine,
 This bodileffe creation extafie
 Is very cunning in.
Ham. Extafie?
 140 My pulfe as yours doth temperatly keepe time,
 And makes as healthfull muficke, it is not madneffe

-
- 118 F. *their corporal*, showing at once misreading of *n* as *r* and false division of words.
 121 Both Q. and F. *haire*. Wilson like most editors reads *hairs* a needless change; *haire* is used collectively.
 127 Q. has a comma, the characteristic "light" pointing of this text, after *capable*; F. has a period.
 131 F. *to who*, a miscorrection.
 138 Both Q. and F. print the words *is very cunning in* at the end of this line, probably following Shakespeare's ms.
 139 Q. omits Hamlet's repetition of his mother's word *Extafie?*. It is supplied from F. followed by a question mark which may stand for an exclamation. The repetition is so effective that it seems better to attribute it to Shakespeare and assume an omission in Q. than to suppose it an actor's interpolation. Moreover, if read, in connection with the extra-metrical words *is very cunning in* at the close of the preceding line, it gives us a line wanting only an unstressed syllable, a lack supplied by a pause between the speeches.

- That I haue vttered, bring me to the test,
 And I the matter will reword, which madnesse
 Would gambole from, mother for loue of grace,
 Lay not that flattering vnction to your foule
 That not your trespasse but my madnesse speakes,
 It will but skin and filme the vlcrous place
 Whiles ranck corruption mining all within
 Infects vnseene, confesse your selfe to heauen,
 150 Repent what's past, atoyd what is to come,
 And doe not spread the compost on the weedes
 To make them rancker, forgiue me this my vertue.
 For in the fatnesse of these purfie times
 Vertue it selfe of vice must pardon beg,
 Yea curbe and wooe for leaue to doe him good.

Ger. Q Hamlet thou hast cleft my hart in twaine.

- Ham.* O throwe away the worier part of it,
 And liue the purer with the other halfe,
 Good night, but goe not to my Vncles bed, *Dishevelled*
 160 Assume a vertue if you haue it not.
 That monster custome, who all fence doth eate
 Of habits euill, is angell yet in this
 That to the vse of actions faire and good,

143 Q. omits I, supplied from F.

145 F. *a flattering*. As often F. weakens the demonstrative force of Q.

148 F. *Whils't* for Q. *Whiles*. Shakespeare uses either form.

151 F. *or* for Q. *on*, another *r: n* confusion.

152 F. *ranke*, perhaps repeating this word from l. 148, but it may be a scribal error.

153 F. *this* for Q. *these*, perhaps a compositor's error.

155 Q. *curbe*; F. *courb*, variants of a verb meaning "to bow," "to stoop." Shakespeare does not use it in this sense elsewhere. F. *woe* for Q. *wooe*.

158 Q. *leaue*; F. correctly *liue*. Shakespeare may have written *leue* a sixteenth century variant of *live*, or even *liue* with an undotted *i*. In either case the Q. printer miscorrected it to *leaue*. It is possible, of course, that the printer's eye was caught by *leaue* three lines above and that he set up this word here. Cf. note on 5.2.356.

159 F. *mine* for Q. *my*.

160 Q. *Affune*, a minim error. F. correctly *Assume*.

Both Q. and F. have a comma after *not*; a period seems needed.

161-5 F. omits all from *That monster* to *put on* and prints *refraine to night* as the end of l. 160. Evidently Hamlet's role in this scene was heavily cut—and small wonder.

161-5 Q. *'eate Of habits deuill*, etc., the text may be interpreted as it stands, thus: "custom, that monster, who deadens sense, though of habits (in garb)

- He likewise giues a frock or Liuary
 That aptly is put on, refraine to-night,
 And that shall lend a kind of easiness
 To the next abstinence, the next more easie:
 For vice almost can change the stamp of nature,
 And either [curb] the deuill, or throwe him out
 170 With wonderous potency: once more good night,
 And when you are desirous to be blest,
 Ile blessing beg of you, for this same Lord
 I doe repent; but heauen hath pleased it so
 To punish me with this, and this with me,
 That I must be their scourge and minister,
 I will bestowe him and will answere well
 The death I gaue him; so againe good night
 I must be cruell only to be kinde,

a devil, is yet an angel in this respect that he gives a livery (a recognized uniform) to the practice of good actions." This interpretation, however, seems to strain the sense of **all fence doth eate**. It seems better to accept, with Wilson, Theobald's emendation *evil* for **deuill**. Shakespeare may well have written *eule* (cf. *dram of eale*, 1.4.36 and note *ad. loc.*). Then a common misreading by the printer of *e* as *d* would give *dule*, which suggested *deuill*, a suggestion perhaps promoted in his puzzled mind by the word *angell* immediately following. The contrast in the passage is not between *devil* and *angel*, but between **habits evil** and **actions fair and good**. The absence of any punctuation after *eate* goes to show that the sense ran on to the next phrase and that of **habits evil** is to be construed with **fence**. We may interpret as follows: custom, the monster who eats (destroys) all sense (recognition) of evil habits, nevertheless plays an angel's part in giving a livery (uniform) to the practice of good actions.

- 165 Q. omits the necessary comma after **put on** and prints *to refraine night*, a transposition which F. corrects.
- 167-70 F. omits all from **the next more to potency**, another cut in Hamlet's role.
- 169 Q. **And either the deuill**. The printer has dropped the necessary verb. An early emendation *Maister* (*master*) in Q.4 has been accepted by many editors who apparently did not notice that Q.4 read *And Maister*, eliminating **either** and ruining the meter. Malone's conjecture *curb* is supported by *M. of V.*, 4.1.217 *curb this cruel devil*. Plainly a monosyllabic verb is wanted and *curb* is the best proposed. Wilson's suggestion that an original *exorcise* in the ms. was misread as *either* is not satisfactory; and *exorcise the devil or throw him out* seems to contrast two verbs, *exorcise* and *throw out*, which mean the same thing.

Thus bad beginnes, and worfe remains behind.

180 One word more good Lady.

Ger. What shall I doe?

Ham. Not this by no meanes that I bid you doe,
Let the blowt King tempt you againe to bed,
Pinch wanton on your cheek, call you his Mous, e,
And let him for a paire of reechie kisses,
Or padling in your necke with his damn'd fingers,
Make you to rauell all this matter out
That I essentially am not in madnesse,
But mad in craft, 'twere good you let him knowe.
For who that's but a Queene, faire, sober, wife,
190 Would from a Paddock, from a bat, a gib,
Such deare concernings hide, who would doe fo?
No, in dispiht of fence and fecrecy,
Vnpeg the basket on the houses top,
Let the birds fly, and like the famous Ape,
To try conclusions in the basket creepe,
And breake your owne necke downe.

179 *Q. This*; F. **Thus**, a necessary correction accepted by all editors but Wilson who thinks *This* refers to the corpse of Polonius and says that hitherto the couplet has "eluded explanation." But the sense of F. seems clearer than that of Q.; *Thus*, in this way, by the killing of Polonius, a bad beginning has been made, whereas "*this* corpse begins bad" seems almost nonsense. A similar confusion between *this* and *thus* appears in 4.5.68 where F. has *this*, a patent mistake for Q. *thus*.

180 F. omits the half-line **One . . . Lady**, apparently a careless slip in transcription or printing since it is needed to make a full line with the Queen's speech which follows.

182 *Q. Blowt* (i.e. bloat); F. *blunt* a misprint, *o* as *u* and minim error.
Q. temp't; F. *tempt*.

185 *Q.* has a period; F. rightly a comma after *fingers*.

186 *Q. rouell*, an *o* for *a* misreading, F. correctly *rauell*.

188 F. *made* perhaps due to the following *in craft*.
Q. 'twere; F. *'Twere*, the capital *T* is due to F.'s placing a period after *craft*.

190 *Q. paddack*. There seems to be no authority for this form; probably we have here the common *o* as *a* misreading. F. corrects **Paddocke**.

191 *Q.* and F. have a comma after *fo*. A question mark is needed.

Ger. Be thou affur'd, if words be made of breath
And breath of life, I haue no life to breath
What thou haft fayd to me.

200 *Ham.* I muft to *England*, you knowe that.

Ger. Alack

I had forgot. Tis fo concluded on.

Ham. Ther's letters feald, and my two Schoolefellowes,
Whom I will trust as I will Adders fang'd,
They beare the mandat, they muft fweep my way
And marshall me to knauery: let it worke,
For tis the fport to haue the enginer
Hoift with his owne petar, an't fhall goe hard
But I will delue one yard belowe their mines,
And blowe them at the Moone: ô tis moft fweete
210 When in one line two crafts directly meete,
This man fhall fet me packing,
Ile lugge the guts into the neighbour roome;
Mother good night indeed, this Counfayler
Is now moft ftill, moft fecret, and moft graue,
Who was in life a foolifh prating knaue.
Come fir, to draw toward an end with you.
Good night mother. *Exit.*

201 Q. prints this as two lines, ending *forgot* and *on*; F. as one with a double feminine ending. The word *Alacke* belongs to and completes l. 200.

202-10 F. omits all from *Ther's letters* to *meete*. Here, as before, the role of Hamlet has been cut. It seems strange that lines showing Hamlet's distrust of his companions which later leads him to open the sealed letters should have been deleted from an acting version.

213 Q. has a comma after *indeed*; F. a period after *good night*. The Q. punctuation probably preserves Shakespeare's intention; Hamlet bids a loving "goodnight indeed" to his mother and then turns to the corpse of Polonius. The F. punctuation linking *Indeede* with what follows is less forcible.

215 Q. a *moft foolish*. The *moft*, which ruins the meter, has been caught by the printer from the preceding line. F. rightly omits the word.

217 For the s.d. at the close of this scene Q. has simply *Exit*; F. *Exit Hamlet tugging in Polonius*, the prompter's direction to the actors.

IV. i *Enter King, and Queene, with Rosencrans
and Guyldesterne.*

King. There's matter in these fighes, these profound heaues,
You must tranſlate, tis fit we vnderſtand them,
Where is your ſonne?

Ger. Beſtow this place on vs a little while.

Exeunt Roſ. and Guyldest.

Ah mine owne Lord, what haue I feene to night?

King. What *Gertrud*, how dooes *Hamlet*?

Ger. Mad as the ſea and wind when both contend
Which is the mightier, in his lawleſſe fit,
Behind the Arras hearing ſome thing ſtirre,
10 Whyps out his Rapier, cryes a Rat, a Rat,
And in this brainiſh apprehenſion kills
The vnſeene good old man.

King. O heauy deede!
It had been ſo with vs had wee been there,
His libertie is full of threates to all,
To you your ſelfe, to vs, to euery one,
Alas, how ſhall this bloody deede be anſwer'd?

Act 4, ſcene 1

1 For the s.d. which opens this scene Q. has **Eenter King and Queene, with Rosencrans and Guyldesterne**; F. simply *Enter King* which shows a prompter's alteration for stage economy. Q. brings *Ros.* and *Guyldest.* on the stage only to dismiss them at l. 4 (without, however, marking their exit at that point) and recalls them at l. 31. F. postpones their entrance till l. 32 when they enter at the call of the King. We may imagine that Shakespeare meant to have the King attended on his entrance to the Queen's chamber by these trusted friends. Q. has not marked an exit for the Queen at the close of the preceding scene so that the entrance given her in this s.d. is not needed; probably it was due to Shakespeare's haste in writing; he needed the Queen on in this scene and included her name with that of the others. On Shakespeare's stage the action at this point was continuous; the King enters to find the Queen where Hamlet had left her; there should be no scene—much less an act—division between 3.4 and 4.1.

1 F. *matters*, a scribal or printer's error.

4 Omitted in F. since Rosencrans and Guyldesterne to whom it is addressed are not present; see preceding note. It is necessary after this line to add the s.d. marking their exit omitted in Q.

5 F. *my good Lord*, a hack phrase substituted by actor or scribe for the more intimate address of Q.

7 F. *Seas*, an arbitrary change; the commas after *Seas* and *winde* are characteristic of the heavy punctuation of F.

10 F. mars the meter by reading: *He whips his Rapier out, and cries*, probably a bit of careless transcription.

11 F. *his* for Q. *this*, avoiding the demonstrative.

- It will be layd to vs, whose prouidence
Should haue kept fhort, refraind, and out of haunt
This mad young man; but fo much was our loue,
20 We would not vnderftand what was moft fit,
But like the owner of a foule difeafe
To keepe it from divulging, let it feede
Euen on the pith of life: where is he gone?

Ger. To draw apart the body he hath kild,
Ore whom, his very madnes like fome ore
Among a minèrall of mettals bafe,
Showes it felfe pure, a weepes for what is done.

- King.* O *Gertrud*, come away,
The funne no fooner fhall the mountaines touch,
30 But we will fhipe him hence, and this vile deede
We muft with all our Maieftie and skill
Both countenance and excufe. Ho *Guyldensterne*,

Enter Rof. & Guild.

- Friends both, goe ioynè you with fome further ayde,
Hamlet in madnes hath *Polonius* flaine,
And from his mothers clofet hath he drag'd him,
Goe feeke him out, fpeake fayre, and bring the body
Into the Chappell; I pray you haft in this. *Exeunt Gentlemen.*
Come *Gertrud*, wee'll call vp our wifest friends,
And let them know both what we meane to doe
40 And whats vntimely doone,

- 22 F. *let's it*. Apparently the scribe took **owner** (l. 21) as the subject of *let* and altered the verbal form to correct, as he thought, Shakespeare's bad grammar.

- 27 F. *He* for Q. a.

- 31 Q. sets the s.d. **Enter Rof. & Guild.** after this short line for typographical reasons. Their proper entrance is after the King's call in l. 32, but this line is too long to permit the printing of the s.d. in the right hand margin.

- 35 F. *Cloffets*, another wrong plural; cf. l. 7 above.

Q. *dreg'd*; but there seems no authority for this form; it is probably an *a* as *e* misreading. F. correctly *drag'd*.

- 36 There is no point after *out* in Q.; the comma is supplied from F.

- 37 Q. has a comma at the end of this line, standing, as often, for a period as in F.

After this line F. has the s.d. *Exit Gent*, marking the exit of *Roscencrans* and *Guyldensterne*. There is no s.d. here in Q.

- 39 F. *To let*, a scribal change.

Whofe whifper ore the worlds dyiameter,
As leuell as the Cannon to his blanck,
Tranſports his poyſned ſhot, may miſſe our Name,
And hit the woundleſſe ayre, ô come away,
My foule is full of difcord and difmay. *Exeunt.*

IV. ii. *Enter Hamlet, Roſencrans and others*

Ham. Safely ſtowd,
But ſoft, what noyſe, who calls on *Hamlet*?
Gentlemen within. Hamlet, Lord Hamlet.

O heere they come.

Rof. What haue you doone my Lord with the dead body?

Ham. Compounded it with duſt whereto tis kin.

Rof. Tell vs where tis that we may take it thence.
And beare it to the Chappell.

Ham. Doe not beleeeue it.

10 *Rof.* Beleeeue what?

Ham. That I can keepe your counfaile & not mine owne,
befides to be demaunded of a ſpunge, what reſpycation ſhould be
made by the ſonne of a King.

41-4 F. omits all from **Whofe whifper** to **ayre**. Apparently there was some confusion in the ms. here. Wilson makes the interesting suggestion that Shakespeare meant to omit these lines and marked them for deletion with some sort of a bracket which appeared to cancel only the last half of l. 40. Consequently the Q. printer omitted the words in that half-line but set up the rest of the passage without noticing that he left **whofe whifper** hanging in the air without an antecedent. Various conjectures have been made as to the omitted phrase, of which the Theobald-Capell: *So haply Slander* is as good as any.

Act 4, scene 2

The Q. s.d. at the beginning of this scene: **Enter Hamlet, Roſencrans and others**, may represent Shakespeare's hasty note of the actors wanted in the scene. Certainly **Rosencrans and others** do not enter till after l. 4. F. has the s.d. *Enter Hamlet* and, after his first words, the s.d. *Gentlemen within* and their call, *Hamlet, Lord Hamlet*, which is followed, after Hamlet's next speech, by the s.d. *Enter Roſ. and Guildensterne*. This, of course, represents the prompter's rearrangement for the stage and has been accepted by most editors. The call *within* seems necessary to explain Hamlet's words, **who calls on Hamlet**. It may have been carelessly omitted by the Q. printer.

2 F. omits *but soft*.

6 Q. *Compound*; F. correctly **Compounded**. The Q. printer has dropped the final *-ed*.

10 Q. has a period after **what**; the question mark is supplied from F.

11 Q. has a comma; F. a period after **owne**. This comma is omitted in Griggs facsimile but is visible, if faint, in three photostats of Q. 1604.

Rof. Take you me for a sponge my Lord?

Ham. I fir, that fokes vp the Kings countenance, his re-
wards, his authorities, but fuch Officers doe the King beft fer-
vice in the end, he keepes them like an ape an apple in the corner
20 of his jaw, firft mouth'd to be laft fwallowed, when hee needs
what you haue gleand, it is but fqueefing you, and fponge you
fhall be dry againe.

Rof. I vnderftand you not my Lord.

Ham. I am glad of it, a knauifh fpeech fleepes in a foolifh
eare.

Rof. My Lord, you muft tell vs where the body is, and goe
with vs to the King.

30 Ham. The body is with the King, but the King is not with
the body. The King is a thing.

Guyf. A thing my Lord?

Ham. Of nothing, bring me to him. *Exeunt.*

IV. iii. *Enter King, and two or three.*

King. I haue fent to feeke him, and to find the body,
How dangerous is it that this man goes loofe,
Yet muft not we put the ftrong Law on him,
Hee's lou'd of the diftracted multitude,
VVho like not in their iudgement, but theyr eyes,

20 Q. like an apple; F. *like an Ape*. Many editors follow the text of Q. in
an earlier scene (3.2): *as an Ape doth nuttes*. Wilson thinks the Q. text
gives good sense, but the image of a king keeping an apple in the corner of
his jaw is too ridiculous. Farmer's conjecture that Shakespeare wrote *like*
an ape an apple in the corner of his jaw, is very plausible and explains both
the Q. and the F. text. Misled by the similarity of *ape* and *apple* the Q.
printer omitted *ape* and the F. scribe *apple*. The phrase *an ape an apple*
might easily be misunderstood and misread.

31 Q. has a period; F. a dash after *thing*. Both points indicate an unfinished
speech.

32 Q. has a period after *lord*; the question mark is supplied from F.

33 Q. omits the words *hide Fox and all after* found in F. Wilson thinks they
were accidentally dropped by the Q. printer; but it seems not unlikely that
they are an actor's interpolation to heighten the feigned madness of
Hamlet in this scene. One may imagine Burbadge running off the stage
with this cry as if Hamlet were playing *hide-and-seek*.

Act 4, scene 3

The F. s.d. before this scene has simply *Enter King*. The Q., as usual
more prodigal of actors, shows Shakespeare's feeling that the King should
not enter unaccompanied; cf. s.d. before 4.1. The F. version ~~makes~~ the
King's speech a soliloquy; the Q. an address to his attendants, the "wisest
friends" of 4.1.38.

- And where tis fo, th'offenders fcourge is wayed
 But neuer the offence: to beare all fsmooth and euen,
 This fuddaine fending him away must feeme
 Deliberate pause, difeafes defperat growne,
 10 By defperat applyance are relieu'd
 Or not at all.

Enter Rofencrans and all the rest.

How now, what hath befallne?

Rof. Where the dead body is beftowd my Lord
 VVe cannot get from him.

King. But where is hee?

Rof. Without my lord, guarded to know your pleasure.

King. Bring him before vs.

Rof. How! bring in the Lord. *They enter.*

King. Now *Hamlet*, where's *Polonius*?

Ham. At fupper.

King. At fupper, where?

- 20 *Ham.* Not where he eates, but where a is eaten, a certaine
 conuocation of politique wormes are een at him: your worme is
 your onely Emperour for dyet, we fat all creatures els to fat vs,
 and wee fat our felues for maggots, your fat King and your leane

- 6 **Q. wayed**; F. *weigh'd*. Shakespeare must have meant the word to be pronounced as a monosyllable.
- 7 **Q. neuer**; F. *neerer*. The Q. form is the expansion in print of the monosyllabic *ne'er* which is required here by the meter. Either the F scribe or his printer mistook *ne'er* for the comparative form of *near* and spelled it out *neerer*.
- 11 The Q. s.d. **Enter Rofencrans and all the rest** is a good example of Shakespeare's hasty way of jotting down a s.d. in his ms., leaving the action to be worked out in rehearsal. Here he wants *Rosencrans* to enter with other gentlemen, but certainly not with Hamlet. F., representing the stage-practice, has him enter alone while Hamlet waits within under the guard of *Guiltensterne*. Hamlet's entrance is marked in Q. by the indefinite **They enter** after l. 16, where F. has specifically *Enter Hamlet and Guiltensterne*. To clear up the action F. reads in l. 16 *How, Guiltensterne? Bring in my Lord*; where Q. has only **How, bring in the Lord**. The exclamation mark after **How**, wanting in Q., is supplied from the question mark of F. After this s.d. *Enter Ros. etc.* Q. unnecessarily repeats the speech-heading **King**.
- 16 F. *my Lord*, the scribe's change to the more familiar form.
- 19 Q. has a comma after **fupper** in the King's speech and a period after **where**; F. a question mark after both words. The second question mark suffices.
- 20 F. *he is for Q. a is*.
- 21 Q. *conuocation*, an *o* as *a* misreading; F. correctly *conuocation*.

begger is but variable seruice, two difhes but to one table, that's the end.

King. Alas, alas.

Ham. A man may fish with the worme that hath eate of a
30 *King,* & eate of the fish that hath fedde of that worme.

King. VVhat dooft thou meane by this?

Ham. Nothing but to shew you how a King may goe a progresse through the guts of a begger.

King. Where is *Polonius*?

Ham. In heauen, send thether to see, if your messenger finde him not there, seeke him i'th other place your selfe, but if indeed you find him not within this month, you shall nose him as you goe vp the staires into the Lobby.

40 *King.* Goe seeke him there.

Ham. A will stay till you come.

King. *Hamlet* this deede for thine especial safety

Which we do tender, as we deerely grieve

For that which thou hast done, must send thee hence

With fierie Quicknesse. Therefore prepare thy selfe.

The Barck is ready, and the wind at helpe,

Th'affociats tend, and euery thing is bent

For *England*.

25-30 F. omits all from **King. Alas** to **worme**. This seems to be an accidental omission by the scribe rather than a cut since something like this appears in Q.₁ and was therefore spoken on Shakespeare's stage.

31 Q. carelessly repeats the speech-heading *King King* here. F. correctly **King**.

37 Q. *thrrre*. This misprint, found in all copies of Q. 1604 persists, according to Wilson, in the B.M. and T.C.C. copies of 1605. F. correctly **there**.

F. *indeed, if*, an arbitrary transposition.

38 F. *this month*, omitting **within** and reverting, surprisingly, to an old spelling of **month**.

41 F. *He* and *ye* for Q. **A** and **you**.

42 F. *this deed of thine, for thine*, apparently a scribal error; it adds a foot to the line and nothing to the sense. Wilson thinks it an actor's insertion.

45 Q. has a period after **hence** and omits the words **With fierie Quicknesse**. There seems no explanation for this except the printer's carelessness. Yet it is strange that, omitting this phrase at the beginning of a line, he should have pushed the words that follow into proper alignment as verse and capitalized the first of them, **Therefore**. Possibly a proof-reader attended to this.

47 F. *at bent*. The eye of the scribe or the printer of F. was caught by *at* directly above in l. 46.

Ham. For England?

King. I Hamlet.

Ham. Good.

King. So is it if thou knew'st our purposes.

50 Ham. I see a Cherub that sees thee, but come for England,
Farewell deere Mother.

King. Thy louing Father Hamlet.

Ham. My mother, Father and Mother is man and wife,
Man and wife is one flesh, and so my mother:

Come for England. Exit.

King. Follow him at foote,
Tempt him with speede aboard,
Delay it not, Ile haue him hence to night.

Away, for euery thing is seald and done

That els leanes on th'affayre, pray you make haf. *Exeunt*

60 And England, if my loue thou hold'st at ought, [*Gentlemen.*

As my great power thereof may giue thee fence,

Since yet thy Cicatrice looks raw and red,

After the Danish sword and thy free awe

Payes homage to vs, thou may'st not coldly set

Our soueraigne proceffe, which imports at full

By Letters congruing to that effect

The present death of Hamlet, doe it England,

For like the Hectique in my blood he rages,

And thou must cure me; till I know tis done,

70 How ere my haps, my ioyes were nere begun. Exit.

48 Q. has a period; F. a question mark after Hamlet's *For England*. Wilson thinks "Hamlet's quiet assent is more forcible"; but the following words of the King: *I (Ay) Hamlet* sound like the answer to a question.

50 Q. *the*, using the macron to save space in an unusually long line of prose. F. reads *him*, probably a mere misprint.

54 Q. omits the second *and*, supplied from F. It appears also in Q.1.

59 Neither Q. nor F. has an s.d. after *haf*, which is followed by a comma in Q. and a period in F. Evidently, however, the King dismisses his attendants here, for his following words must be regarded as a soliloquy. The s.d. *Exeunt Gentlemen* is needed.

66 Q. *congruing*; F. *coniuring*. Editors vary. The verb *congrue* appears in *K.H.V.*, 1.2.182, where Q. reads *congrueth* and F. *congruing*. It seems better to retain this word than to follow the F. alteration to a more familiar word which had already begun to suggest the sense "request," "implore." Wilson thinks the F. scribe anticipated here the *coniuration* of 5.2.38.

70 Q. *will nere begin*; F. correctly *were nere begun*. The scene should end with a rhymed couplet. Wilson suggests that the Q. printer set up *begin* by mistake and that the proof-reader altered *were* to *will* to preserve the grammar.

IV. iv. *Enter Fortinbrasse with his Army ouer the stage.*

Fortin. Goe Captaine, from me greet the Danifh King,
 Tell him, that by his lycence *Fortinbrasse*
 Craues the conueyance of a promifd march
 Ouer his kingdome, you know the randeuous,
 If that his Maieftie would ought with vs,
 We fhall exprefse our dutie in his eye,
 And let him know fo.

Cap. I will doo't my Lord.

For. Goe foftly on. *Exeunt Fortinbrasse and his army.*

Enter Hamlet. Rosencrans, &c.

Ham. Good fir whofe powers are thefe?

10 *Cap.* They are of *Norway* fir.

Ham. How purpofd fir I pray you?

Cap. Againft fome part of *Poland*.

Ham. Who commaunds them fir?

Cap. The Nephew to old *Norway*, *Fortinbrasse*.

Ham. Goes it againft the maine of *Poland* fir,
 Or for fome frontire?

Cap. Truly to fpeake, and with n^o addition,
 We goe to gaine a little patch of ground
 That hath in it no profit but the name,

20 To pay fwee duckets, fwee I would not farme it;

Act 4, scene 4

The s.d. in F. is simply *Enter Fortinbras with an army*. It is unusual for F. to be less explicit in the matter of stage directions than Q.

3 Both Qq. **Craues**; F. **Claines**, an arbitrary alteration, possibly intended to put a stronger word into the mouth of the warlike Fortinbras. Wilson suspects here the scribe's anticipation of the *clame* of Fortinbras in 5.2.401.

4 Q. has a comma, F. a colon, at the end of this line. There is no punctuation in the Griggs facsimile.

8 Q. **foftly**; F. **fafely**, an *o* as *a* plus *t* as *e* error. After this line F. prints *Exit* and omits the rest of the scene, a cut to shorten the role of Hamlet which has been almost invariably followed in stage-practice. There is no s.d. in Q. here, but evidently Fortinbras and his army have left the stage before Hamlet and his companions enter to the Captain.

9 The Q. s.d. before this line **Hamlet, Rosencrans, &c.** is an interesting example of Shakespeare's carelessness in s.d. He wanted Hamlet to be accompanied by his guards and thought it sufficient to jot down the name of one of them and add *&c.*, knowing that the prompter would bring them on the stage.

17 This line lacks a syllable. Perhaps the Q. printer dropped a word like *it* after **fpeake**.

19 Q. has no punctuation after **name**.

Nor will it yeeld to *Norway* or the *Pole*
A rancker rate, should it be fold in fee.

Ham. Why then the *Pollacke* neuer will defend it.

Cap. Yes, it is already garifond.

Ham. Two thousand foules & twenty thousand duckets
VWill not debate the question of this straw,
This is th'Impostume of much wealth and peace,
That inward breakes, and showes no cause without
Why the man dies. I humbly thanke you fir.

30 *Cap.* God buy you fir.

Rof. Wil't please you goe my Lord?

Ham. Ile be with you straight, goe a little before.

Exeunt Rosencrans. &c.

How all occasions doe informe against me,
And spur my dull reuenge. What is a man
If his chiefe good and market of his time
Be but to sleepe and feede? a beast, no more:
Sure he that made vs with such large discourse
Looking before and after, gaue vs not
That capabilitie and god-like reason
To fust in vs vnu'd, now whether it be

40 Bestiall obliuion, or some crauen scruple

Of thinking too precisely on th'euent,

A thought which quarterd hath but one part wisdom,

And euer three parts coward, I doe not know

11 } Why yet I liue to say this thing's to doe,
Sith I haue cause, and will, and strength, and meanes
To doo't; examples grosse as earth exhort me,
Witnes this Army of such masse and charge,

Led by a delicate and tender Prince,

Whose spirit with diuine ambition puffed,

50 Makes mouthes at the invifible euent,

Exposing what is mortall, and vnfire,

To all that fortune, death, and danger dare,

Euen for an Egge-shell. Rightly to be great,

Is not to stirre without great argument,

But greatly to find quarrell in a straw

When honour's at the stake, how stand I then

That haue a father kild, a mother staine'd,

Excytements of my reason, and my blood,

32 *There is no s.d. here in Q., but it is clear that Hamlet dismisses his companions and remains alone for the soliloquy.

36 Q. has a comma after **feede**—a question mark is needed.

And let all fleepe, while to my flame I fee
 60 The imminent death of twenty thoufand men,
 That for a fantafie and tricke of fame
 Goe to their graues like beds, fight for a plot
 Whereon the numbers cannot try the caufe,
 Which is not tombe enough and continent
 To hide the flaine, ô from this time forth,
 My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth. *Exit.*

IV. v. *Enter Horatio, Gertrud, and a Gentleman.*

Quee. I will not fpeake with her,
Gent. Shee is importunat,
 Indeede diftract, her moode will needes be pittied.
Quee. What would fhe haue?
Gent. She fpeakes much of her father, fayes fhe heares
 There's tricks i'th world, and hems, and beates her hart,
 Spurnes enuiously at ftrawes, fpeakes things in doubt .

59 Most editors place a question mark after *fleepe*.

Act 4, scene 5

F. shows a considerable revision for stage purposes and so saves one actor, the Gentleman, in the first part of this scene. In the s.d. F. cancels **and a Gentleman**, assigns the two speeches given him in Q. to *Hor.* and gives *Hor.*'s speech, ll. 14-16, to the Queen.

Tanger (*Anglia*, Vol. IV, pp. 227 ff.) suggests that there was some confusion in Shakespeare's ms. here. He believes that at first Shakespeare introduced only Gertrude and a Gentleman, then to meet the wish of the actor he brought in Horatio, writing his name before the s.d. (note that Q. violates decorum by putting Horatio's name before that of the Queen) and cancelling the words **and a Gentleman**, but so imperfectly that the Q. printer read them and set them up. Tanger, however, does not notice that this change would involve the substitution of *Hor.* for *Gent.* in the speech-headings before ll. 2 and 5 which was not made.

It seems better to let the Q. text stand. The Gentleman is a courtier bringing news of Ophelia to the Queen who is attended by her son's friend, Horatio. The change in F. which assigns his lines, 14-16, to her is most unsatisfactory and the misalignment of these lines in F. (two and a half lines ending *with, coniectures and minds*) points to some maladjustment in the copy that lay before the scribe.

All modern editors give the words *Let her come in* to the Queen. One may believe that Shakespeare knew what he was doing here. The Queen, lost in the consciousness of her guilt (ll. 17-20), is silent, giving perhaps an affirmative sign to Horatio who then bids the Gentleman admit Ophelia. The Queen's words (ll. 17-20) after Ophelia's entrance are a brooding soliloquy from which she is only roused by Ophelia's direct address, l. 21. Certainly we had better follow Q. in this passage than the muddled stage-arrangement of F.

- That carry but halfe fence, her speeche is nothing,
 Yet the vnfhaped vfe of it doth moue
 The hearers to collection, they yawne at it,
 10 And botch the words vp fit to theyr owne thoughts,
 Which as her wincks, and nods, and geftures yeeld them.
 Indeeде would make one thinke there might be thought
 Though nothing fure, yet much vnhappily.
Hora. Twere good fhe were fpoken with, for fhee may ftrew
 Dangerous coniectures in ill breeding mindes,
 Let her come in.

Enter Ophelia

- Quee.* 'To my ficke foule, as finnes true nature is,
 'Each toy feemes prologue to fome great amiffe,
 'So full of artleffe iealoufie is guilt,
 20 'It fpills it felfe, in fearing to be fpylt.
Oph. Where is the beautious Maieftie of Denmarke?
Quee. How now *Ophelia*? *fhee fings.*
Oph. How fhould I your true loue know from another one,
 By his cockle hat and ftaffe, and his Sendall fhooone.
Quee. Alas fweet Lady, what imports this fong?
Oph. Say you, nay pray you marke,
 30 He is dead & gone Lady, he is dead and gone, *Song.*
 At his head a grafgreene turph, at his heeles a ftone.
 O ho.
Quee. Nay but *Ophelia*.

- 9 Q. **yawne**; F. *ayme*, followed by all editors; but **yawne** in the sense of gape at, wonder at, is used by Shakespeare elsewhere (*Oth.* 5.2.101; *Cor.* 3.2.11) and fits the context perfectly here. Wilson explains Q. by supposing that the printer set up *awne* for *aime*, a minim error and then miscorrected to *yawne*. But if F. follows the spelling of the ms. the word before the printer was 'not *aime* but *ayme* which could not be easily set up as *awne*. On the other hand if the F. scribe wrote what looked to the printer like *yame* (*wn* misread as *m*) the F. printer might well correct this supposed error to *ayme*.
- 12 F. *would* for Q. **might**, repeating *would* earlier in the line.
- 17-20 Q. prefixes inverted commas to these lines to mark them as *sententiae*; cf. 1.3.36-9.
- 22 F. omits the s.d. *fhee fings* after this line.
- 26-7, 30-1 Modern editors break up these lines, printing each couplet as four lines. They are in the old seven-foot ballad meter and may be left as Shakespeare wrote them.
- After l. 30 Q. has *Song* in the right hand margin, omitted in F. and in the Griggs facsimile of Q. F. also omits *Song* in the margin after l. 48.
- 33 F. and many editors omit O ho, but it represents Ophelia's deep sigh after her song.

Oph. Pray you marke.
White his fhrowd as the mountaine fnow.

Enter King.

Quee. Alas looke heere my Lord.

Oph. Larded all with fweet flowers,
Which beweept to the ground did not go *Song.*
With true loue fhowers.

40 *King.* How doe you pretty Lady?

Oph. Well good dild you, they fay the Owle was a Bakers daughter, Lord we know what we are, but know not what we may be. God be at your table.

King. Conceit vpon her Father.

Oph. Pray lets haue no words of this, but when they aske you what it meanes, fay you this.

To morrow is S. Valentines day, *Song.*

All in the morning betime,

50 And I a mayde at your window

To be your Valentine.

Then vp he rofe, and dond his clofe,

And dupt the chamber doore,

Let in the maide, that out a maide,

Neuer departed more.

35 Q. prints the words **White** to **fnow** as part of l. 34, but it is the beginning of a second song and should begin a new line as in F.

Q. has the s.d. **Enter King** after this line. F. as usual puts it earlier, after l. 31.

37 F. omits **all** and so normalizes the meter. Greg makes the interesting suggestion that Shakespeare first wrote *Larded all with flowers*, then changed his mind and wrôte **sweet** into the line, forgetting to delete *all*. This may be so, but it seems better to keep the Q. text and hold with *Tanger* (*New. Sh. Soc. Trans.*, 1880-1882, n.) and Wilson that Shakespeare deliberately put broken lines into the mouth of the mad girl; cf. note on l. 38.

38 Q. **ground**; F. *graue*. Many modern editors delete **not**, might easily be misread as *ground*, an *a* as *o*, *u* as *n*, final *e* as *d* misreading. On the other hand Ophelia repeats the word *ground* in l. 70 and as it makes good sense here it may be allowed to stand.

All three texts read **did not goe**. Many modern editors delete **not**, but it must have stood in Shakespeare's ms. Possibly he meant it as Ophelia's interpolation in the old song. She is thinking of her father's "obscure burial" which did *not* go bewept.

40 F. *ye* for Q. **you**.

41 Q. **good dild**; F. *God dil'd*, colloquial variants of "God yield," i.e. reward.

46 Q. omits *you* after **pray**. Most editors follow F. but Q. makes good sense.

52-5 Both Q. and F. print as two lines, ending **doore** and **more**; but the previous lining of the first stanza of this song in Q. shows that we should have four short lines.

King. Pretty *Ophelia*.

Oph. Indeede without an oath Ile make an end on't,
By gis and by Saint Charitie,
60 Alack and fie for fhamē,
Young men will doo't if they come too't,
By Cock they are too blame.
Quoth she, Before you tumbled me,
You promifd me to wed.

(He answers.) So would I a done by yonder funne
And thou hadst not come to my bed.

King. How long hath she beene thus?

Oph. I hope all will be well, we must be patient, but I cannot
70 chuse but weepe to thinke they would lay him i'th cold ground,
my brother shall know of it, and so I thanke you for your good
counsaile. Come my Coach, good night Ladies, good night.
Sweet Ladyes good night, good night. *Exit.*

King. Follow her close, giue her good watch I pray you.

Exeunt Horatio and Gentleman.

O this is the poyson of deepe griefe, it springs
All from her Fathers death, and now behold,

ô *Gertrud*, *Gertrud*,

When forrowes come, they come not fingle spyes,

But in battalians: first her Father flaine,

80 Next, your sonne gone, and he most violent Author

58 After indeede F. has *la?* This may well be an actor's interpolation.

64 Q. prints **you promifd me to wed** as part of l. 63.

65 F. and most modern editors omit the marginal (**He answers**) of Q. It is characteristic that Shakespeare retained in his ms. the phrase he must have heard when this old song was sung. F. *ha* for Q. *a*, i.e. haue.

67 Q. **thus**; F. *this*, a misprint; cf. a similar misprint in Q. in 3.4.179.

70 F. *should* for Q. **would**, a scribal variant.

Q. has a comma; F. a colon, after **ground**. The Griggs facsimile has no punctuation here.

72-4 Q. *God night . . . God night*; F. **Goodnight . . . Goodnight**. *God* and *good* are often confused in Elizabethan spelling. The F. form seems better here.

73 Q. lacks the **Exit** for Ophelia after this line, supplied from F.

74 Neither Q. nor F. has a s.d. after this line, but the King's command, **Follow her close**, must send Horatio and the Gentleman off after Ophelia.

76-7 Q. prints as prose, but the verse rhythm is audible. F. arranges as two lines of verse by omitting **and now behold**. Probably Shakespeare's ms. was confused here.

After the second *Gertrud* Q. has a period, F. correctly a comma.

78 ⁸ F. *comes* for Q. **come**. It is unusual to find this singular form with a plural subject in F.

79 F. *Battaliaes*, a misprint.

Of his owne iuft remoue, the people muddied
 Thick and vnwholfome in their thoughts, and whifpers
 For good *Polonius* death: and we haue done but greenly
 In hugger mugger to inter him: poore *Ophelia*
 Deuided from herfelſe, and her faire iudgement,
 VVithout the which we are pictures, or meere beaſts,
 Laſt, and as much contayning as all theſe,
 Her brother is in ſecret come from Fraunce,
 Feeds on his wonder, keeps himſelfe in clowdes,
 90 And wants not buzzers to infect his eare
 With peſtilent ſpeeches of his fathers death,
 Wherein neceſſity of matter beggerd,
 Will nothing ſtick our perſon to arraigne
 In eare and eare: ô my deare *Gertrud*, this
 Like to a murdring peece in many places
 Giues me ſuperfluous death. *A noiſe within.*

Quee. Alacke, what noiſe is this?

Enter a Meſſenger.

King. Attend

Where is my Swiffers, let them guard the doore,
 What is the matter?

Meſſen. Saue your ſelfe my Lord.

The Ocean ouer-peering of his liſt
 100 Eates not the flats with more impitiouſ haſt
 Then young *Laertes* in a riotous head
 Ore-beares your Officers: the rabble call him Lord,
 And as the world were now but to beginne,

82 Q. omits *their*, ſupplied from F.

89 Q. *Feeds*; F. *Keepes*, anticipating this word later in the line.

Q. *this*; F. *his* followed by moſt editors and probably correct. Wilson explains Q. as an *h* miſread as *th*.

90 Q. *eare*—miſprinted *care* by Griggs.

92 F. *Where in*.

93 Q. *perſon*; F. *perſons*, a ſcribe's change, probably due to the preceding plural pronoun *our*.

96 Q. omits the Queen's ſpeech, *Alacke*. . . *this*?, ſupplied from F. This omiſſion is probably due to ſome confuſion in the ms., ſee next note.

96-8 There may have been confuſion in the ms. here. The Meſſenger ſhould enter after the King's call, *Attend*, which is omitted in F. This call ſhould ſtand in a line by itſelf as the following words *where* . . . *doore* make a complete line.

98 Q. *is*; F. *are*, followed by all editors, even Wilson. But there is no more familiar phenomenon in Elizabethan English than that of an apparently ſingular verb like *is* with the plural ſubject, as here. Q. *Swiffers*, F. *Switzers*.

Antiquity forgot, custome not knowne,
 The ratifiers and props of euery word,
 They cry choofe we, *Laertes* shal be King,
 Caps, hands, and tongues applaud it to the clouds,
Laertes shal be King, *Laertes* King.

Quee. How cheerefully on the false traile they cry. *A noise*
 110 O this is counter you false Danish dogges. [within.]

Enter Laertes with others.

King. The doores are broke.

Laer. Where is this King? firs stand you all without.

All. No lets come in.

Laer. I pray you giue me leauc.

All. VVe will, we will.

Laer. I thanke you, keepe the doore, o thou vile King,
 Giue me my father.

Quee. Calmely good *Laertes*.

Laer. That drop of blood thats calme proclames me Bastard,
 Cries cuckold to my father, brands the Harlot
 Euen heere betweene the chafft vnfmirched browe
 120 Of my true mother.

King. VVhat is the cause *Laertes*
 That thy rebellion looks so gyant like?
 Let him goe *Gertrud*, doe not feare our perfon,
 There's such diuinitie doth hedge a King,
 That treason can but peepe to what it would,
 Acts little of his will, tell me *Laertes*
 Why thou art thus incenft? let him goe *Gertrud*.
 Speake man.

106 Q. *The cry*; F. correctly **They cry**. Q. has dropped a letter.

107 Q. *applaw'd*; F. **applaud**.

109-10 F. omits **A** before **noise** and **with others** in the s.d. after these lines. As usual the prompter's arrangement preserved in F., tends to economize the number of actors required in a scene. Here, however, the **others** of Q. is required since *Laertes* orders his followers to withdraw (l. 112) and the mob at the door has two lines, 113 and 114, to speak.

115 F. *vilde*. It is unusual to find F. reverting to an older form, but it sometimes happens; cf. note on 4.3.38.

119 Q. *bröwe*; F. *brow*. One would naturally expect the plural *browes* after *between*, but the agreement of Q. and F. seems to show that Shakespeare used the singular form here. Possibly he did so inadvertently; the parallel phrase *between his browes*, *Much Ado*, 3.5.14, shows the proper use. It may be, of course, that he used the word collectively like *hair* in 3.4.121 above.

125 Q. *Act's*; F. correctly **Acts**.

126 Q. has a comma after **incenft**; the question mark is supplied from F.

Laer. Where is my father?

King. Dead.

Quee. But not by him.

King. Let him demaund his fill.

130 *Laer.* How came he dead? I'll not be iugled with,
To hell allegiance, vowes to the blackest deuill,
Conscience and grace to the profoundest pit.
I dare damnation, to this poynt I stand,
That both the worlds I giue to negligence,
Let come what comes, onely I'll be reueng'd
Most throughly for my father.

King. Who shall stay you?

Laer. My will, not all the worlds:

And for my meanes I'll husband them so well,
They shall goe farre with little.

140 *King.* Good *Laertes*,
If you desire to know the certainty
Of your deere Father, is't writ in your reuenge,
That fooptake, you will draw both friend and foe
Winner and loofer?

127 F. *Where's*.

128 The B.M. Q. (1605) alone of copies consulted reads *no* for **not** in this line.

130 Q. has a comma after **dead**; the question mark is supplied from F.

132 Both Q. and F. have an unnecessary comma after **grace**.

Q. has no punctuation after *pit*; the period is supplied from F.

135 Q. has an italic *L* at the beginning of this line.

137 Q. **worlds**; F. *world*, followed by most editors, but it is easier to imagine the scribe or printer of F. dropping a final *s* than the Q. printer adding an unnecessary one. Pope's reading *world's* probably gives the true sense: all the world's will can not stay me.

139-40 Q. prints **Good Laertes . . . certainty** as one line; but the first two words belong to and complete the previous line. F. corrects the arrangement. It is probable that the Q. printer was following copy.

141 Q. **Father**; F. *Fathers death*, followed by all editors except Wilson. The change turns the line, already marked by an extra syllable, into an Alexandrine. It is probable that the prompter or scribe thought that the sense was not clear and emended to make it so. Possibly it is an anticipation of *your father's death*, l. 149 below.

Q. *i'ft*, the apostrophe error; but F. makes things worse by reading *if*. This may be no misprint, but an alteration by the scribe who had just been tampering with the text, and recalled *If* in the previous line.

142 Q. **fooptake**; F. *Soop-stake*. Many editors adopt the spelling of Q., which reads *Swoop-stake-like*. There can be no doubt that Shakespeare wrote *foop*, a common sixteenth variant of *swoop*.

143 Both Q. and F. have a period after **loofer**. A question mark is needed.

Laer. None but his enemies,

King. Will you know them then?

Laer. To his good friends thus wide I'll ope my armes,
And like the kind life-rendring Pelican,
Repast them with my blood.

King. Why now you speake
Like a good child, and a true Gentleman.
That I am guiltlesse of your fathers death,

150 And am most fencibly in griefe for it,
It shall as leuell to your iudgement peare
As day dooes to your eye.

A noyfe within. Let her come in.

Laer. How now, what noyfe is that? *Enter Ophelia.*
O heate, dry vp my braines, teares feauen times salt
Burne out the fence and vertue of mine eye,
By heauen thy madnes shall be payd with weight

146 It is difficult to account for the F. *Politician*. It can hardly be a misprint for Q. *Pelican*, yet the scribe is unlikely to have made so ridiculous a change unless he was ignorant of the well known myth of the Pelican. Possibly the change was made by the prompter.

150 Q. *fencibly*; F. *fensible*, perhaps an attempt to improve Shakespeare's grammar.

151 Q. *peare*; F. *pierce*, an alteration to make the sense clearer, followed by most editors. But *pear(e)* is an aphetic form of *appear* (see *N.E.D.* sub *pear* 5) often confused in meaning, as in form, with *peer*. Shakespeare uses *peer* or *peare* repeatedly of the sun at dawn (*K.H.IV*, 5.1.1) in the same spelling as here. We may keep *peare* and interpret as follows: my innocence shall appear as direct to your judgment as daybreak does to your eye.

152 Q. s.d. *A noyfe within*

Enter Ophelia

followed by

Laer. Let her come in

How now, what noyfe is that

F. s.d. *A noife within. Let her come in*

Enter Ophelia

Laer. How now? What noife is that?

The F. version, representing the stage-practice, must be correct except for the anticipatory entrance of Ophelia who should not enter till after **noife is that?** The **noise within**, sometimes printed by modern editors *Danes within* (Wilson has *Shouting without* which seems unfortunate) is the off-stage cry of the mob demanding entrance for Ophelia. It is absurd for Laertes to ask **what noise is that** after saying *Let her come in*. Probably Shakespeare's ms. was confused here, but the prompter has cleared it up nicely.

156 F. by *waight*, an arbitrary change.

Till our scale turne the beame. Q Roſe of May,

Deere mayd, kind fifter, ſweet Ophelia,

160 O heauens, ift poſſible a young maids wits
Should be as mortall as an old mans life.

Nature is fine in Loue, and where 'tis fine,

It fends ſome precious inſtance of it ſelfe

After the thing it loues.

Oph. They bore him bare-faſte on the Beere, *Song.*

Hey, non nony, nony, hey nony;

And in his graue rain'd many a teare,

Fare you well my Doue.

Laer. Hadſt thou thy wits, and did'ſt perfwade teuenge

It could not mooue thus.

170 *Oph.* You muſt ſing a downe a downe,

And you call him a downe a.

O how the wheele becomes it!

It is the falſe Steward that ſtole his Maifters daughter.

Laer. This nothing's more then matter.

Oph. There's Roſemary, thats for remembrance, pray you
loue remember, and there is Pancies, thats for thoughts.

Laer. A document in madnes, thoughts and remembrance
fitted.

180 *Oph.* There's Fennill for you, and Columbines, there's Rewe
for you, & heere's ſome for me, we may call it herbe of Grace a

157 *Q. Tell*; F. correctly *Till*. At least three times in *Hamlet*, here and at 2.2.572 and 5.1.322, the Q. printer misread *till* as *tell*, another sign that Shakespeare was careless about dotting his *i*'s.

F. *turnes*, an attempt to improve Shakespeare's grammar.

160 *Q. a poore*; F. *an old*, which must be right since Laertes is thinking of his young sister's loss of wits and his old father's loss of life. It is not easy to explain the Q. *poore*. Wilson thinks the printer omitted *old* and the corrector inserted *poore* to complete the sense and the meter. Perhaps the word was suggested by *poſſible*, l. 159, giving a double transverse alliteration: *poſſible*: *maid's* and *mortal*: *poore*.

161-3 Three lines from *Nature* to *loues*, omitted in Q., are supplied from F. This must be a careless omission by the printer.

165 The refrain *Hey non nony*, etc., omitted in Q., is supplied from F.

166 For Q. *in* and *rain'd* F. has *on* and *raines*, arbitrary alterations.

170-3 Q. and F. print as three lines with slightly different arrangement. It seems proper to separate Ophelia's spoken words: *Oh how . . . † daughter* from her snatch of song. Wilson alters *And you* of Q., F. to *an* (if) *you*. This seems unnecessary and rather fanciful.

172 Q. has a comma after *it*; the exclamation mark is suggested by the question mark in F.

176 F. omits *you* before *loue* and in l. 177 spells *Pacomies*.

180 Q. *Colembines*, a *u* as *e* misreading; F. corrects *Columbines*.

Sondaies, you muſt weare your Rewe with a difference, there's a Dafie, I would giue you ſome Violets, but they witherd all when my Father dyed, they ſay a made a good end.

For bonny fweet Robin is all my ioy.

Laer. Thought and affliction, paſſion, hell it ſelfe
She turnes to fauour and to prettines.

190 *Oph.* And wil a not come againe, *Song.*

And wil a not come againe,
No, no, he is dead, goe to thy death bed,
He neuer will come againe.

His beard was as white as ſnow,

All flaxen was his pole,

He is gone, he is gone, and we caſt away mone,

200 God a mercy on his foule,
And of all Chriſtian foules, I pray God.

God buy you. *Exit Ophelia.*

Laer. Doe you ſee this o God?

King. *Laertes*, I muſt commune with your grieve,

Or you deny me right, goe but apart,

Make choice of whom your wiſeſt friends you will,

And they ſhall heare and iudge twixt you and me,

If by direct, or by colaturall hand

They find vs toucht, we will our kingdome giue,

Our crowne, our life, and all that we call ours

182 Q. *you may weare*; F. *Oh you muſt weare*. The *Oh* is probably an actor's interpolation, but **muſt** ſeems better than *may*, and **muſt** in Q. shows that this word was ſpoken on Shakespeare's ſtage. Wilson ſuggests that the Q. printer's eye was caught by **may** in the line above.

185 F. *he for Q. a.*

188 Q. *afflictions*; F. **Affliction**, followed by all editors and probably correct, ſince the nouns before and after it are in the ſingular. F. often adds an *s* but ſeldom drops one.

190-1 F. omits *s.d.* in the margin after l. 190. F. *he for Q. a.*

195 F. omits **was** after **Beard**, probably by accident.

196 Q. omits **All**, ſupplied from F.

200-1 Q. prints **God a mercy to foules** as one line. As above it ſeems beſt to ſeparate as F. does, Ophelia's ſpoken words from her ſong.

F. *Gramercy for Q. God a mercy*, poſſibly a bit of the inſiſtent cenſorſhip.

Q. omits **I pray God**, ſupplied from F. Q. *Chriſtians*; F. **Chriſtian**. Q. *chriſten* ſhows the word was uſed as an adjective.

Q. has no *s.d.* after l. 201; F. *Exeunt Ophelia*.

201 Q. omits **ſee**, ſupplied from F.

Q. For Q. *o God*, F. has *you Gods?*, probably an attempt at purgation. The queſtion mark of F. ſeems needed.

202 F. *common* for Q. *commune*.

- To you in fatisfaction; but if not,
 210 Be you content to lend your patience to vs,
 And we shall ioyntly labour with your foule
 To giue it due content.

Laer. Let this be so.

His meanes of death, his obfcure funerall,
 No trophe, fword, nor hatchment ore his bones,
 No noble right, nor formall oftentation,
 Cry to be heard as twere from heauen to earth,
 That I muft call't in queftion.

King. So you fhall,
 And where th'offence is, let the great axe fall.
 I pray you goe with me. *Exeunt.*

IV. vi. *Enter Horatio and others.*

Hora. VVhat are they that would fpeake with me?

Gent. Sea-faring men fir, they fay they haue Letters for you.

Hor. Let them come in.

I doe not know from what part of the world
 I fhould be greeted. If not from Lord *Hamlet.* *Enter Saylers.*

Say. God bleffe you fir.

Hora. Let him bleffe thee to.

213 Q. funeral; F. *buriall*, an arbitrary alteration.

214 Q. has no punctuation after *trophe* (F. *trophee*, dissyllable), the comma comes from F.

215 Q. *right*; F. *rite*, variant spellings. Shakespeare apparently preferred *right*; cf. 5.2.400, 410 although in 5.1.242 Q. has *rites*.

217 Q. *call't in*; F. *call in*, a careless alteration which mars the sense.

Act 4, scene 6

In the opening s.d. F. as usual economizes the number of actors required. For Q. and others F. has *with an Attendant*. In l. 2 Q. has the speech-heading *Gent.*, i.e. one of the *others*; F. has *Ser.*, i.e. the *Attendant*. In the s.d. after l. 5 F. has the singular *Saylor* for Q. *Saylers*, although the F. text has *Saylors* in l. 2 and the plural *them* in l. 3.

2 For Q. *Sea-faring men* F. has *Saylors*, plainly an arbitrary alteration but followed by many editors.

5 Q. *greeted. If not*; F. *greeted, if not*. Q. probably follows copy and Shakespeare's punctuation for elocutionary effect, a pause after *greeted*, and then as an afterthought *If not*. It is unusual to find F. pointing more lightly than Q.

Say. A fhall fir and't please him, there's a Letter for you fir,
 10 it came frō th'Embassador that was bound for *England*, if your
 name be *Horatio*, as I am let to know it is.

Hor. [*Reads the letter.*] *Horatio*, when thou shalt haue ouer
 lookt this, giue these fellowes some meanes to the King, they
 haue Letters for him: Ere wee were two daies old at Sea, a Pyrat
 of very warlike appointment gaue vs chafe, finding our felues
 too flow of faile, wee put on a compelled valour, and in the grap-
 20 ple I boarded them, on the instant they got cleere of our shyp, fo
 I alone became theyr prisoner, they haue dealt with me like thieues
 of mercie, but they knew what they did, I am to doe a good turne
 for them; let the King haue the Letters I haue sent, and repayre
 thou to me with as much speede as thou wouldest flie death, I
 haue wordes to speake in thine eare will make thee dumbe, yet
 are they much too light for the bore of the matter, these good
 fellowes will bring thee where I am, *Rosencrans* and *Guylden-*
 30 *sterne* hold theyr course for *England*, of them I haue much to
 tell thee, farewell.

He that thou knowest thine Hamlet.

Come I will giue you way for these your letters,

And doo't the speedier that you may direct me

To him from whom you brought them.

Exeunt.

8 F. *Hee* for Q. A.

Q. and please; F. and't please. In either text *and* = if. The Q. printer
 may have dropped the 't, or Shakespeare may have considered that 't was
 absorbed in spelling, as it would be in speech, in the preceding *d*.

9 Q. came fro; F. comes from. Q. uses the macron to save space in a very
 long line. F. comes, an arbitrary alteration followed by most editors.

10 F. th' Ambassadors, a mistaken alteration. The scribe was thinking of
Ros. and *Guyld.* but the letter is not from them, but from Hamlet, supposed
 by the Sailor to be "the Ambassador."

11 The s.d. after this line wanting in Q. is supplied from F., which lacks the
 speech-heading, Hor.

18 F. puts a period after *Valour* and omits *and*.

22 Q. omits *good* before *turne*. *N.E.D.* notes that *turn* in this sense is
 almost always preceded by an adjective.

24 F. hast for Q. speede, an arbitrary alteration.

25 F. your for Q. thine, an arbitrary alteration.

26 Some copies of F. misprint *dumbe*.

Q. bord, misreading final *e* as *d*. F. correctly bore.

31 Q. So misreading *h* as *f* and *e* as *o*; F. correctly He.

32 Q. repeats the speech-heading Hor., probably following copy. Shake-
 speare meant the prompter to pick up the text again; in action the letter
 would be written on a separate scroll. There is no speech-heading in F.

Q. omits giue, supplied from F.

34 F. Exit for Q. Exeunt. It is unusual to find F. less correct in such s.d.
 than Q.

IV. vii. *Enter King and Laertes.*

King. Now muſt your conſcience my acquittance feale,
And you muſt put me in your hart for friend,
Sith you haue heard and with a knowing eare,
That he which hath your noble father flaine
Purfued my life.

Laer. It well appeares: but tell mee
Why you proceeded not againſt theſe feates
So criminall and fo capitall in nature,
As by your ſafetie, greatnes, wiſdome, all things els
You mainely were ſtirr'd vp.

- King.* O for two ſpeciall reaſons
10 Which may to you perhaps ſeeme much vnfinnow'd,
But yet to mee th'ar ſtrong, the Queene his mother
Liues almoſt by his lookes, and for my ſelfe,
My vertue or my plague, be it eyther which,
She is fo coniunctiue to my life and foule,
That as the ſtarre mooues not but in his ſphere

Act 4, ſcene 7

- 6 *Q. proceede*; F. correctly *proceeded*. The Q. printer has dropped the final *d*, or, perhaps, misread final *ed* as *e*. In the ſpeech-heading of this line F. has *Eaer*.
7 *Q. criminall*; F. *crimeful*, a word occurring nowhere else in Shakespeare. Most editors follow F. and Wilson ſuggests that the Q. printer ſaw the letters *crim* in his copy and ſet up the common word *criminall* inſtead of *crimeful*, juſt as he changed *expectanſie* to *expectation* in 3.1.166, ſee note *ad loc*. But the caſes are not analogous; the Q. *expectation* ruins the meter; *criminall* does not. Moreover, Shakespeare uſes *criminall* in almoſt the ſame ſenſe in connection with *capitall* in *Cor.*, 3.3.81:

*Even this ſo criminall, and in ſuch capitall kinde
Deserves th' extremest death.*

As the harder reading *crimeful* would demand acceptance, but it may be the ſcribe's attempt to normalize the ſlightly irregular meter.

- 8 F. and all modern editors but Wilson omit the Q. *greatnes*. It is moſt unlikely that the Q. printer inſerted a word not in his copy, but it is quite poſſible that Shakespeare firſt wrote and then cancelled the word, but ſo imperfectly that the printer read and ſet it up. The Q. line is an Alexandrine and the word *greatnes* ſeems rather to weaken than to help the context.
11 F. *And* for Q. *But*, an arbitrary change.
Q. tha'r, an apoſtrophe error; the form poſſibly indicates Shakespeare's pronunciation. F. expands *they are*.
14 F. contracts *She's fo*.
Q. concliue; F. *coniunctiue*. There is no ſuch word in Engliſh as *concliue*. Poſſibly Shakespeare's *coniunctiue* (macron over *u*) was ſo badly written that the printer miſtook *iu* for *c* and the following *t* for *l*.

I could not but by her, the other motiue,
 Why to a publique count I might not goe,
 Is the great loue the generall gender beare him,
 Who dipping all his faults in theyr affection,
 20 Would like the fpring that turneth wood to fstone,
 Conuert his Giues to graces, fo that my arrowes
 Too flightly tymberd for fo loud a Winde,
 Would haue reuerted to my bowe againe,
 But not where I haue aym'd them.

Laer. And fo haue I a noble father loft,
 A fitter driuen into defprat termes,
 Whofe worth, if prayfes may goe backe againe
 Stood challenger on mount of all the age
 For her perfections, but my reuenge will come.

30 *King.* Breake not your fleepes for that, you muft not thinke
 That we are made of ftuffe fo flat and dull,
 That we can let our beard be fhooke with danger,
 And thinke it pafstime, you fhortly fhall heare more,
 I loued your father, and we loue our felfe,
 And that I hope will teach you to imagine.

Enter a Meffenger with Letters.

20 *Q. Worke*; F. **Would**, followed by most editors and probably correct. The Q. reading is barely possible if we take **conuert** (l. 21) to be in the indicative and governed like *Worke* by **who** (l. 19). The F. text gives a simpler and better reading, and the likeness between *would* and *worke* in Elizabethan script would account for an error in Q.

22 *Q. fo loued Arm'd*; F. correctly **fo loud a Winde**; an interesting example of misreading. The Q. printer read loud as *lovd* and, wrong as usual where an apostrophe was concerned, set up *loued*; a **winde** is equivalent in minim strokes to *armed* which the Q. printer set up, inserting an apostrophe to make up for the one omitted in *loued* and capitalizing, presumably to show that *Arm'd* was a noun. That what he set up was arrant nonsense did not trouble him, but it is strange that the "corrector" overlooked this bad blunder.

24 F. *And for Q. But*, a variant overlooked by Wilson.

F. *had arm'd*. Here again is the confusion between *aim*, or *aym*, and *arm*, but now it is F. which is in error. The scribe presumably changed **haue** to *had* to get what he thought a better sequence of tenses.

27 F. *Who was* for Q. **Whofe worth**, a careless scribal error which ruins the syntax. *

35 Q. has a period; F. a dash after **imagine**. Both denote an unfinished speech.

After the entrance of the Messenger F. reads: *How Now? What newes?* and gives *Mef.* the reply: *Letters my Lord from Hamlet*. It is possible that these words are a prompter's addition to make the situation plain to the audience. Q. makes sense as it stands.

Meffen. Thefe to your Maieftie, this to the Queene:

King. From *Hamlet*, who brought them?

Meff. Saylers my Lord they fay, I faw them not,
40 They were giuen me by *Claudio*, he receiued them
Of him that brought them.

King. *Laertes* you fhall heare them: leaue vs. *Exit Meffenger.*
High and mighty, you fhall know I am fet naked on your king-
dom, to morrow fhall I begge leaue to fee your kingly eyes, when
I fhall, firft asking you pardon, there-vnto recount the occafion
of my fuddaine and more ftrange returne. *Hamlet.*

50 What fhould this meane, are all the reft come backe,
Or is it fome abufe, and no fuch thing?

Laer. Know you the hand?

King. Tis *Hamlets* character. Naked,
And in a poftfcript here he fayes alone,
Can you deuife me?

Laer. I am loft in it my Lord, but let him come,
It warms the very ficknes in my hart
That I fhall liue and tell him to his teeth
Thus didft thou.

36 Q. **Thefe**; F. *This*, perhaps the alteration of the prompter who noted that the messenger delivered only one letter to the King. But **Thefe** was a common superscription on a letter; cf. above 2.2.113. Perhaps the Q. **this to the Queene** should read *these*.

41 F. accidentally drops **Of him that brought them**.

42 Q. omits **Exit Messenger**, supplied from F.

43-8 F. prints the letter in italics and puts the phrase **first asking . . . thereunto** in parentheses, prints *th' Occasions* for Q. **the occasion** and supplies **and more ftrange** after **fuddaine**. This represents the scribe's attempt to clarify the letter. Yet Q. with slight emendation, a comma after **fhall** (l. 46) to mark off the phrase which F. puts in parentheses—where F. has *your* for Q. **you**—makes sense provided we construe **thereunto** with **eyes**. The Q. printer bungled this bit and omitted **and more ftrange** and the signature, supplied from F.

50 Q. prints an unnecessary speech-heading, *King*; cf. note on 4.6.32 above.

51 F. *Or no* for Q. **and no**, perhaps induced by *Or* at the beginning of the line.

54 F. *aduise me*, followed by most editors, but Q. **deuife** in the sense of "conjecture" (cf. *R. and J.*, 3.1.72) gives good sense if we take **me** as an "ethical dative" = for me.

55 F. contracts *I'm* **loft**.

Q. has a comma; F. a semicolon, after **Lord**; the Griggs facsimile has no punctuation here.

57 Q. omits **fhall**, supplied from F.

58 F. *diddest*, expanded *metris causa*.

- King.* If it be fo *Laertes*,
 As how fhould it be fo, how otherwife,
 60 Will you be rul'd by me?
Laer. I my Lord,
 So you will not ore-rule me to a peace.
King. To thine owne peace, if he be now returned
 As checking at his voyage, and that he meanes
 No more to vndertake it, I will worke him
 To an exployt, now ripe in my deuife,
 Vnder the which he fhall not choofe but fall:
 And for his death no wind of blame fhall breathe,
 But euen his Mother fhall vncharge the practife,
 And call it accedent.
Laer. My Lord I will be rul'd,
 70 The rather if you could deuife it fo
 That I might be the organ.
King. It falls right,
 You haue beene talkt of fince your trauaile much,
 And that in *Hamlets* hearing, for a qualitie
 Wherein they fay you fhine, your fumme of parts
 Did not together plucke fuch enuie from him
 As did that one, and that in my regard
 Of the vnworthieft fiedge.
Laer. What part is that my Lord?
King. A very riband in the cap of youth,
 Yet needfull to, for youth no leffe becomes
 80 The light and carelefse liuery that it weares
 Then fetled age his fables, and his weedes
 Importing health and grauenes; two months fince

61-2 Q. prints **I my Lord . . . peace** as one line. F. tries to normalize by omitting *I my Lord*, but this phrase is part of the preceding line and should be so printed.

F. *If fo you'l not*, a scribal paraphrase.

63 Q. *the King*; F. correctly **checking**. The Q. printer misread *ch* as *th*, set up *thecking* and, naturally, "corrected" to *the King* regardless of the fact that this made nonsense; cf. l. 22 above. For a similar misprint see *T. and C.*; 4.5.255, where Q. reads *stichied*; F. correctly *stythied*; also *M.N.D.*, 2.1.109, where both Q. and F read *chinne* for *thinne*.

69-82 F. omits all from **My Lord to grauenes**, a skilful cut for stage purposes.

78 Q. *ribaud*, an inverted *n*.

81 Q. has an unnecessary comma after **age**.

82 F. inserts *Some* in this line to restore the meter impaired by the cut, and prints *hence* for Q. *since*, probably a misreading. It seems to impair the sense, yet *N.E.D.* cites an old use of *hence* meaning "at some time in the past, since."

- Heere was a gentleman of *Normandy*.
 I haue seene my selfe, and seru'd against the French,
 And they can well on horsebacke, but this gallant
 Had witch-craft in't, he grew vnto his feate,
 And to such wondrous dooing brought his horse,
 As had he beene incorp't, and demy natur'd
 With the braue beaft, so farre he topt my thought,
 90 That I in forgerie of shapes and tricks
 Come short of what he did.
Laer. A Norman waft?
King. A Norman.
Laer. Vppon my life *Lamound*.
King. The very fame.
Laer. I know him well, he is the brooch indeed
 And Iem of all their Nation.
King. He made confession of you,
 And gaue you such a masterly report
 For art and exercise in your defence,
 And for your Rapier most especiall,
 100 That he cride out, 'twould be a fight indeed
 If one could match you; the Scrimures of their nation
 He swore had neither motion, guard nor eye,
 If you oppofd them; fir this report of his

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- 83 The period after **Normandy** indicates a pause in the speech. F. has a comma.
 84 F. contracts *I'ue seene*.
 85 F. *ran* for Q. *can*, a misprint which makes nonsense.
 88 Q. *incorp't*, apostrophe error. F. *encorps't*.
 89 F. *paft* for Q. *topt*, probably an alteration of the less familiar word. Q. *me*, a *y* as *e* error; cf. 5.2.5 where Q. has *my* for *me*; in both cases F. corrects.
 93 Q. *Lamord*; F. *Lamound*. Quite possibly Shakespeare was thinking of a famous cavalier, Pietro Monte, mentioned in *Il Cortegiano* and called Peter Mount in Hoby's translation (*The Book of the Courtier*, Tudor Translations, p. 58). In this case the F. spelling comes close to the original name.
 95 Q. *The Nation*; F. *our Nation*. Probably Shakespeare wrote *their nation*; cf. l. 101 below. The F. scribe suspecting something wrong (*their* may have been abbreviated *th'*) altered the pronoun to *our*. But the Dane Laertes cannot speak of the Norman cavalier as "of our nation."
 96 F. *mad* for Q. *made*, a scribal error.
 99 F. *especially*, followed by many editors, but it is the characteristic change of F. to a more conventional idiom; cf. note on 1.1.175.
 100 Both Q. and F. print *it would*.
 101-3 F. omits all from **the Scrimures** to **them**, a deliberate cut. At the same time F. shifts **fir** (l. 103) to follow **match you** (l. 101) and sets a period after it.

Did *Hamlet* fo enuenom with his enuy,
That he could nothing doe but wifh and beg
Your fodaine comming ore to play with you.
Now out of this.

Laer. What out of this my Lord?

King. *Laertes* was your father deare to you?

Or are you like the painting of a forrowe,

110 A face without a hart?

Laer. Why aske you this?

King. Not that I thinke you did not loue your father,
But that I knowe, loue is begunne by time,
And that I fee in passages of prooffe,
Time qualifies the sparke and fire of it,
There liues within the very flame of loue
A kind of weeke or fnufe that will abate it,
And nothing is at a like goodnes still,
For goodnes growing to a plurifie,
Dies in his owne too much, that we would doe

120 We should doe when we would: for this would changes,
And hath abatements and delayes as many,
As there are tongues, are hands, are accedents,
And then this should is like a spendthrift figh,
That hurts by eafing; but to the quick of th'vlcer,
Hamlet comes back, what would you vndertake
To showe your selfe in deede your fathers sonne
More then in words?

Laer. To cut his throat i'th Church.

King. No place indeede should murther sanctuarife,

Reuendge should haue no bounds: but good *Laertes*

106 F. *him* for Q. *you*. Most editors, including Wilson, follow F., but it is probably a scribal change for the supposed sake of clearness. Q. makes perfect sense.

107 QF. have a period marking an interrupted spech after *this*; cf. l. 35 above. F. *Why out*, a scribal error.

115-24 F. omits these lines, another cut.

116 Q. *weeke*, Shakespeare's spelling of wick; cf. 3.2.12.

120 Q. *changes*. The Griggs facsimile omits the final *s*.

123 Q. *spend thirfts*, a misprint quietly corrected in Griggs to *spend thrifts*. Wilson accepts the emendation of Q. 6, *spend thrift* and points out that sighing was supposed to drain the blood; cf. *M.N.D.*, 3.2.97. and *R. and J.*, 3.5.59. The final *s* of *thrifts* may be due to the following initial *s* of *figh*. Yet Q. with the correction of the misprint gives a possible sense.

126 F. shifts *indeed* to the end of this line, possibly an actor's change for greater emphasis. Read in *deede*, i.e. in act.

127 Q. *thraot*; cf. note on 1.1.161.

- 130 Will you doe this, keepe clofe within your chamber,
Hamlet return'd, fhall knowe you are come home,
 Weele put on thofe fhall praife your excellence,
 And fet a double varnifh on the fame
 The Frenchman gaue you, bring you in fine together
 And wager on your heads; he being remiffe,
 Moft generous, and free from all contriuing,
 Will not perufe the foyles, fo that with eafe,
 Or with a little fhuffling, you may choofe
 A fword vnbaded, and in a pace of practice
 140 Requite him for your Father.

Laer. I will doo't,

And for that purpofe, Ile annoynt my fword.
 I bought an vnction of a Mountibanck
 So mortall, that but dippe a knife in it,
 Where it drawes blood, no Cataplafme fo rare,
 Collected from all fimples that haue vertue
 Vnder the Moone, can faue the thing from death
 That is but fcratcht withall, Ile tutch my point
 With this contagion, that if I gall him flightly,
 It may be death.

King. Lets further thinke of this.

- 150 Wey what conuenience both of time and meanes
 May fit vs to our fhape, if this fhould fayle,
 And that our drift looke through our bad performance,
 Twere better not affayd, therefore this proiect,
 Should haue a back or fecond that might hold
 If this did blaft in prooffe; foft let me fee,
 Wee'le make a folemne wager on your cunnings,

134 Q. *french man*; F. correctly **Frenchman**.

135 Q. *wager ore*; F. **wager on**; cf. l. 156 below. The Q. printer misread *on* or *one* as *ore*.

139 Q. *pace*; F. *passc*, variant spellings. In 5.2.173 we have *passcs*, but Shakespeare probably allowed himself the license of either spelling.

141 Q. omits *that*, supplied from F.

143 F. *I but dipt*, a paraphrase which impairs the sense.

149 Q. prints *it may be death* at the close of l. 148.

151 Q. has no punctuation after *fhape*; F. a comma. Inasmuch as the clause beginning *if this* is connected logically with the conclusion *Twere better*, (l. 153) there should be a pause here.

155 F. *should blast*, repeating *should* in l. 154.

156 F. *commings*, an *o* for *u* misprint. It is unusual to find F. guilty of the minim error, *mm* for *nn*.

- I ha't: when in your motion you are hote and dry,
 As make your bouts more violent to that end,
 160 And that he calls for drinke, Ile haue prefard him
 A Challice for the nonce, whereon but fipping,
 If he by chaunce escape your venom'd ftuck,
 Our purpofe may hold there; but ftay, what noyfe?

Enter Queene.

Quee. One woe doth tread vpon anothers heele,
 So faft they follow; your Sisters drownd *Laertes*.

Laer. Drown'd, ô where?

- Quee.* There is a Willow growes afcaunt the Brooke
 That fhoves his hore leaues in the glaffy ftream,
 Therewith fantaftique garlands did the make
 170 Of Crowflowes, Nettles, Daifes, and long Purples
 That liberall Shepheards giue a groffer name,
 But our cold maydes doe dead mens fingers call them.

- 157 *Q. I hate*; *F. I ha't*. *Q.* may represent Shakespeare's spelling but the *F.* form is preferable for clearness. The two words are extra-metrical and might be printed as a separate line. The colon with which *F.* follows them seems necessary here.
- 159 *F. The* for *Q. That*.
- 160 *Q. prefard*; *F. prepar'd* followed by most editors. *Q.* shows a recognized sixteenth century variant of "preferred" in the sense of "offered," "set ready for use." *F.* substitutes a more familiar word.
- 163 For *Q. but stay, what noyfe?* *F.* substitutes *how sweet Queene*, a prompter's change to cut out the "noise" (cf. *noyfe within*, 4.5.152) and to introduce the Queen. He should at least have written *how now* to preserve the meter.
- 165 • *F. they'l follow*, a scribal error. •
- 167 *F. aflant a*, followed by most editors, but it is probably the scribe's alteration to get an easier reading; *afcaunt*, a variant of "askance" is, as a rule, an adverb, but might be used here as a preposition. It is hard to imagine *aflant*, if that is what Shakespeare wrote, being read *afcaunt*. *F. a Brooke* for *Q. the Brooke*.
- 168 *Q. horry*; *F. hore*, followed by most editors and probably correct. A Shakespearean spelling *hoare* may easily have been misread as *horry*.
- 169 *F. There with* and *come* for *Q. Therewith* and *make*. *F.* has been followed by most editors, but the *Q.* reading is much more significant. *There-with* means "with the willow," the emblem of unhappy love, and it is with willow twigs and wild flowers that Ophelia "makes fantastique garlands." The *F.* text is probably due to the scribe's reading *therewith* as two words and his finding at the close of the line that this did not give good sense with the verb *make*, which accordingly he changed to *come*.
- 172 *Q. cull-cold*; *F.* correctly *cold*. The *Q.* text probably represents a mis-corrected misprint. Wilson suggests that *cull* was a misprint for *could* (cold) which was not deleted when the correction *cold* was inserted.

- There on the pendant boughes her cronet weedes
 Clambring to hang, an enuious fliuer broke,
 When downe her weedy trophies and her felfe
 Fell in the weeping Brooke, her clothes fpred wide,
 And Marmaide like awhile they bore her vp,
 Which time fhe chaunted fnatches of old laudes,
 As one incapable of her owne diftrefse,
 180 Or like a creature natiue and indewed
 Vnto that elament, but long it could not be
 Till that her garments heauy with theyr drinke,
 Puld the poore wretch from her melodious lay
 To muddy death.
- Laer.* Alas, then fhe is drown'd.
Quee. Drown'd, drown'd.
Laer. Too much of water haft thou poore *Ophelia*,
 And therefore I forbid my teares; but yet
 It is our tricke, nature her cuftome holds,
 Let fhame fay what it will, when thefe are gone,
 190 The woman will be out. Adiew my Lord,
 I haue a fpeech o' fire that faine would blafe,
 But that this folly drownes it. *Exit.*
- King.* Let's follow *Gertrud*,
 How much I had to doe to calme his rage,
 Now feare I this will giue it ftart againe,
 Therefore lets follow. *Exeunt.*

- 173 Q. *cronet*; F. *Coronet*, variant spellings. As usual F. has the more modern form.
- 178 Q. *laudes*; F. *tunes*, followed by most editors. It is hard to believe that the Q. printer either misread or altered *tunes*, if that word stood in his copy. to *laudes*. On the other hand the change of an unfamiliar to a familiar word is quite in accordance with the practice of F. Moreover the Q. text has a deeper significance; the girl who in her madness had sung such tunes as "St. Valentine's Day" dies chanting the *Laudes*, i.e. the psalms of praise that she had learned at church. The appearance of *tunes* in Q.₁ shows that the change was made early by actor or prompter.
- 182 F. *her drinke*, a scribal error, possibly repeating *her* earlier in the line.
- 183 F. *buy* for Q. *lay*, a plain misprint.
- 184 F. is *fhe drown'd?*, a scribal inversion. The agreement of Q.₁ with Q. goes to show that the phrase was written and spoken as an affirmative sentence.
- 191 Q. *a fire*; F. *of fire*. Shakespeare probably wrote *o* (of) *fire*, misread by Q. printer as *a fire* and corrected by F. to *of*.
- 192 Q. *drownes*; F. *doubts* (i.e. doubts, does out). Many editors follow F. Wilson attributes the Q. reading to the "corrector's" emendation of a

V. i. *Enter two Clownes.*

Clowne. Is hee to be buried in Chriitian buriall, when the wilfully feekees her owne faluation?

Other. I tell thee she is, therefore make her graue ftraight, the crowner hath fate on her, and finds it Chriitian buriall.

Clowne. How can that be, vnlesse she drown'd herselfe in her owne defence.

Other. Why tis found so.

- 10 *Clowne.* It must be Se offendendo, it cannot be els. for heere lyes the poynt, if I drowne my selfe wittingly, it argues an act, & an act hath three branches, it is to act, to doe, to performe, argall, she drown'd her selfe wittingly.

dowes or *downes* misprint of a Shakespearean spelling *dowts*, an emendation furthered by the talk of drowning in this passage; he also remarks that one does not drown a fire. But one of the meanings of "drown" is to "drench," to "extinguish," and Shakespeare repeatedly uses this word in connection with tears. There is a close parallel to the present passage in *Wint. Tale*, 2.1.111-12, *Grief . . . which burns worse than tears drown*. Shirley who often borrows a phrase from Shakespeare writes in *The Traitor*, 5.1.15:

My eyes . . . desire to drown thee.

The construction of the passage is plain: *This folly*, the subject of *drownes*, is, of course, the tears of Laertes, tears which he regards as womanish folly; the word *drownes*, then, seems specially appropriate.

On the textual side it may be noted that Q. *drowne thee in my tears* supports Q. and that the word *drownes* is reinstated in the three later folios. It would seem then that *doubts* is a scribe's alteration.

Act 5, scene 1

- 2 F. *that wilfully*, followed by most editors, but probably a scribal alteration.
- 3 F. inserts an unnecessary *and* before *therefore*.
- 9 Q. *fo* (an *e* as *o* error) *offended*; F. *Se offendendo*. Wilson thinks the Q. printer may have set up *offendended*, which was then "corrected" to the present Q. reading. The Clown's phrase is a happy blunder for *se defendendo*.
- 12 F. *an Act* for Q. *to act*, due to the repetition of the phrase in the immediately preceding lines.
- 13 Q. *or all*; F. correctly *argall*, i.e. ergo. Wilson thinks the Q. printer set up *orall* (*o* for *a*), carelessly dropping the *g* and that the "corrector" altered it to *or all* and inserted the semicolon in an effort to make some sense. It is perhaps simpler to suppose that the printer misread Shakespeare's *a* as *o*, a common error, set up *orgall*, saw that it was a nonsense word, and knocked out the *g*.

Other. Nay, but heare you good man deluer.

Clowne. Giue mee leaue, here lyes the water, good, here
 20 fstands the man, good, if the man goe to this water & drowne him-
 felfe, it is will he, nill he, he goes, marke you that, but if the water
 come to him, & drowne him, he drownes not himfelfe, argall, he
 that is not guilty of his owne death, fhortens not his owne life.

Other. But is this law?

Clowne. I marry if't. Crowners queft law.

Other. Will you ha the truth an't, if this had not beene a
 gentlewoman, fhe fhould haue been buried out a chriſtian buriall.

30 *Clowne.* Why there thou fayſt, and the more pittie that great
 folke fhould haue countnaunce in this world to drowne or hang
 thēfelues, more then theyr euen Chriſten: Come my fpade, there
 is no auncient gentlemen but Gardners, Ditchers, and Graue-
 makers, they hold vp Adams profefſion.

Other. Was he a gentleman?

Clowne. A was the firſt that euer bore Armes.

Other. Why he had none.

40 *Clo.* What, ar't a Heathen? How doſt thou underſtand
 the Scripture? The Scripture ſayes *Adam* dig'd; could he digge
 without Armes? Ile put another queſtion to thee, if thou
 anſwereſt me not to the purpoſe, confeſſe thy ſelfe.

Other. Goe to.

Clow. What is he that builds ftronger then eyther the Maſon,
 the Shypwright, or the Carpenter?

18 F. *himſele*, a ſimple misprint.

20 F. has a queſtion mark for exclamation after *that*.

24 Q. *i'ft*; F. *is't*. The period after *i'ft* in Q. may mark a pause for emphasis.

26 F. *on't*, a modernization.

28 Q. *out a*; F. *out of*. The colloquial form of Q. is appropriate to the Clown.

32 F. *Chriſtian*. Q. preserves an old idiom.

37 F. *He* for Q. *A*.

38-42 Q. omits the words from the ſpeech-heading *Other* to *Armes*? Apparently the printer's eye ſkipped from *Armes* (l. 37) to *Armes* (l. 42) about three proſe lines, ſupplied from F.

44 Q. has a period; F. a daſh after *thy ſelfe* to indicate an unfinished ſpeech.

48 Q. has a period after *Carpenter*; the queſtion mark is ſupplied from F. So alſo in l. 58 below.

Other. The gallowes maker, for that Frame out-liues a
50 thousand tenants.

Clowne. I like thy wit well in good fayth, the gallowes dooes well, but howe dooes it well? It dooes well to those that do ill, nowe thou dooft ill to say the gallowes is built stronger then the Church, argall, the gallowes may doo well to thee. Too't againe, come.

Other. VVho buildes stronger then a Mafon, a Shipwright, or a Carpenter?

Clowne. I, tell me that and vnyoke.

60 *Other.* Marry now I can tell.

Clowne. Too't.

Other. Masse I cannot tell.

Clow. Cudgell thy braines no more about it, for your dull affe wil not mend his pace with beating, and when you are askt this question next, say a graue-maker, the houses hee makes lasts till Doomefday. Goe get thee in, and fetch mee a fcoupe of liquer. In youth when I did loue did loue, *Song.*

70 Me thought it was very fweet

To contract, ô, the time for a my behoue,

O me thought there, a, was nothing, a, meet.

Enter Hamlet and Horatio.

49 Q. omits **Frame**, supplied from F.

62 • After this line F. has the s.d. *Enter Hamlet and Horatio a farre off*. Q. postpones their entrance till after l. 72. The change has been made by the prompter to get Hamlet on the stage while the clown is singing.

67 F. inserts *that* after **houses**, a needless change.

67-8 F. *go, get thee to Yaughan*. Probably *Yaughan* (i.e. Yohan or Johan) kept a tavern near the theatre and the insertion of his name here was an actor's gag to get a laugh. There is no such name in Q. and there is no need to suppose an omission in Q.

Q. *foope*; F. **foupe**, followed by all editors and probably correct since Q. reads *foupe*. The Q. printer may have dropped the *t*. Still *foope* (i.e. sup) makes sense.

71-2 The ô (F. O) and a of l. 71, like the repeated a of l. 72 (omitted in F.) probably represent the grunts of the Gravedigger at work and should be set off by commas. It has also been suggested that they represent the drawing note of the singer; cf. the song of Autolycus in *Wint. Tale.*, 4.3.132-5.

Ham. Has this fellowe no feeling of his bufines? a fings in graue-making.

Hora. Cufstome hath made it in him a propertie of eafines.

Ham. Tis een fo, the hand of little imploiment hath the daintier fence.

Clow. But age with his ftealing fteppes *Song.*
 80 hath clawed me in his clutch,
 And hath fhipped me into the land,
 as if I had neuer been fuch.

Ham. That skull had a tongue in it, and could fmg once, how the knaue iowles it to the ground, as if twere Caines iawbone, that did the firft murder, this might be the pafe of a pollitician, which this affe now ore-reaches; one that would circumuent God, might it not?

Hora. It might my Lord.

- 74 *F. bufineffe, that he fings at*, followed by all editors including Wilson who says the Q. printer omitted *that*. But Q. makes perfect sense: Hamlet first asks a rhetorical question and then gives his reason for asking it. To explain Q. by the omission of *that* does not account for the question mark after *bufineffe* in that text. The F. text has been edited. It also reads *at* for Q. in in this line.

The Griggs facsimile has no period after **graue-making**, but one is found in all three photostats.

- 78 *Q. dintier*; F. correctly *daintier*. No such spelling as *dinty* is known to *N.E.D.* In a crowded line *a* has dropped out. The period after *fence* is supplied from F.
- 80 *F. caught* for Q. **clawed** which reproduces the original of Lord Vaux's song (*Arber, Tottel's Miscellany*, p. 173).
- 81 *F. intill* for Q. **into**,⁶ followed by most editors. But here as in l. 80 Q. reproduces the original. F. may show an actor's alteration to emphasize the archaic rudeness of his song.
- 84 *F. to th' ground.*
- 85 *F. It might*, avoiding the demonstrative *this* of Q. F. omits *now*.
- 87 *F. o'er Offices*, followed by many editors. Dr. Johnson says: "It is a strong exaggeration to remark that an *ass* can *over-reach* him who would once have tried to circumvent God." But the Dr. does not notice that now a live *ass* o'er-reaches a dead politician who alive would have tried to circumvent God. He thinks that *o'er Offices* may be Shakespeare's own revision. The verb "to office" occurs twice in Shakespeare (*All's Well*, 3.2.129, and *Cor.*, 5.2.68), but in neither case with a meaning that would be appropriate here. On the other hand, *pace* Dr. Johnson, the idea of an *ass* like the clown "o'er-reaching" a smart politician is most happy and Hamlet-like. It is possible that F. represents the alteration of the scribe who, like Dr. Johnson, stumbled at the "exaggeration" of his copy.
- 87 *F. could*, possibly induced by *could* two lines below.

90 *Ham.* Or of a Courtier, which could fay good morrow sweet lord, how doft thou sweet lord? This might be my Lord fuch a one, that praifed my lord fuch a ones horfe when a ment to beg it, might it not?

Hor. I my Lord.

Ham. Why een fo, & now my Lady wormes, Chapleffe, & knockt about the Mazard with a Sextens fpade; heere's fine reuolution and we had the tricke to fee't, did thefe bones coft no more the breeding, but to play at loggits with them: mine ake to thinke on't.

Clow. A pickax and a fpade a fpade,

Song.

• for and a fhrowding fheet,

O a pit of Clay to be made

for fuch a gueft is meet.

Ham. There's another, why may not that be the skull of a Lawyer, where be his quiddities now, his quillities, his cafes, his tenurs, and his tricks? Why dooes he fuffer this madde knaue
110 now to knocke him about the fconce with a durtie houell, and

92 F. has *good* for the second **fweet** of Q. in this line. Many editors, including Wilson, follow F.; but Hamlet seems to be mocking the flattering repetition of the courtier's address.

94 Q. **a went**; F. **he meant**. The correction *meant* appears before F. in the copy of the undated Q. at the Bodleian. The Q. text makes some sense, but F. supported by an early Q. is surely right; *m* and *w* are so nearly alike that the Q. printer may easily have misread a Shakespearean spelling *ment* as *went*.

97 Q. has no punctuation after **wormes**, the comma is supplied from F.

Q. **Choples**; F. **Chapleffe**. Q. misreads *a* as *o* but otherwise may preserve a Shakespearean spelling.

98 Q. **maffene**; F. correctly **Mazard**. In the one other place where the word occurs in Shakespeare (*Oth.*, 2.3.156) it is spelled in Q. **mazzard**, in F. **mazard**. Here Q. probably represents a misreading of a form *mafferd*, turning *r* into *n* and final *d* into *e*.

99 F. **if** for Q. **and**, a modernization.

101 F. **with 'em?** F. is prodigal of question marks and the phrase may be read as an exclamation.

102 F. has the quaint spelling **Pickhaxe**.

Q. sets the word **Song** in the right margin; F. has the s.d. *Clowne sings* before the song; so also in l. 89; in l. 79 *Sings*.

106 F. **might not**, an arbitrary alteration.

107 F. **of of**, a printer's error.

Q. **quiddities** . . . **quillites** (for **quillities**); F. **Quiddits** . . . **Quillets**, variant spellings.

109 Q. **madde**; F. **rude**, followed by most editors. Wilson says: "Q. has a minim misreading (*ru* as *ma*); the action of *battery* proves that *rude* was the word intended." This does not seem necessary. Q. gives perfect sense,

will not tell him of his action of battery? hum, this fellowe might be in's time a great buyer of Land, with his Statuts, his recognifances, his fines, his double vouchers, his recoueries. Is this the fine of his Fines, and the recouery of his Recoueries, to haue his fine pate full of fine durt, will his vouchers vouch him no more of his purchafes & double ones too, then the length and breadth of
 120 a payre of Indentures? The very conueyances of his Lands will fcarcelly lye in this box, & muft th'inheritor himfelfe haue no more, ha?

Hora. Not a iot more my Lord.

Ham. Is not Parchment made of fheepe-skinnes?

Hora. I my Lord, and of Calues-skinnes too.

Ham. They are Sheepe and Calues which feeke out affurance in that, I wil fpeak to this fellow. Whofe graue's this firra?

Clow. Mine fir,

O a pit of clay for to be made
 for fuch a Gueft is meete.

130 *Ham.* I thinke it be thine indeede, for thou lyest in't.

Clow. You lie out ont fir, and therefore tis not yours; for my part I doe not lie in't, yet it is mine.

for Hamlet might well call the clown a *mad* i.e. wild, reckless, knave, for knocking a lawyer's *sconce* with his shovel and thus laying himself open to an *action of battery*: cf. *madde rogue*, l. 196.

111 Q. has a comma after **battery**; the question mark is supplied from F.

114-6 Q. has a comma after **recoueries**; F. a colon. Q. omits the words **Is this to his recoueries**. The Q. printer has jumped from one **recoueries** to the other; cf. ll. 38-42 above.

117 Q. omits **his** before *vbuchers*, supplied from F.

118 Q. *doubles*; F. correctly **double ones too**. Apparently the Q. printer was more than usually careless in this passage or found his copy unusually perplexing.

120 F. *hardly*, a paraphrase.

121 F. *the Inheritor*.

124 Q. **to**; F. *too*. The Griggs facsimile omits the period found in all three photostats after **to**.

125 Q. **which feeke**; F. *that feek*, an arbitrary alteration.

127 Q. **firra**?; F. *Sir*? Hamlet would hardly address the Clown as *Sir*. F. must be a careless scribal change.

129 Q. *or a pit*; F. **O a pit**. The Q. printer misread *o* as *or*. The word, of course, is part of the song into which the Clown here breaks. Q. omits the second line of this song, supplied from F.

134 F. *it is* for Q. **tis**.

135 F. inserts *and* before **yet**. This is needless. Wilson says Q. shows an omission.

Ham. Thou dooft lie in't to be in't & fay it is thine, tis for the dead, not for the quicke, therefore thou lyeft.

140 *Clow.* Tis a quicke lye fir, twill away againe from me to you.

Ham. What man dooft thou digge it for?

Clow. For no man fir

Ham. What woman then?

Clow. For none neither

Ham. Who is to be buried in't?

Clow. One that was a woman fir, but reft her foule fhee's dead.

Ham. How abfolute the knaue is, we muft fpeake by the
150 card, or equiuocation will vndoo vs. By the Lord *Horatio*, this three yeeres I haue tooke note of it, the age is growne fo picked, that the toe of the pefant coms fo neere the heele of the Courtier he galls his kybe. How long haft thou been Graue-maker?

Clow. Of all the dayes i'th yere I came too't that day that our laft king *Hamlet* ouercame *Fortinbraffe*.

Ham. How long is that fince?

160 *Clow.* Cannot you tell that? euery foole can tell that, it was that very day that young *Hamlet* was borne: hee that is mad and fent into *England*.

Ham. I marry why was he fent into *England*?

Clow. Why becaufe a was mad: a fhall recouer his wits there, or if a doo not, tis no great matter there.

137 Q. it is thine; F. 'tis thine; perhaps induced by 'tis immediately following.

149 F. has a question mark for exclamation after is, an unnecessary change.

150 Q. this three years; F. these three years, followed by most editors, but it looks like the scribe's attempt to correct Shakespeare's grammar. Three years, an indefinite expression, equivalent to "long time," may well take a singular pronoun.

151 Q. tooke; F. taken, a modernization. Shakespeare repeatedly uses took(e) as a past participle, see *Two Gent.*, 5.4.105; *M. for M.*, 2.2.74; *C. of E.*, 2.1.89, and elsewhere.

152-3 F. heeles of our Courtier. Greg calls this a double misprint, but it may be a scribal error.

154 Q. omits a before Graue-maker, which appears in F.; but like *Sexten*, 1. 177, the noun may stand without the article.

155 Q. omits all before the dayes, supplied from F.

156 F. o'ercame.

160 Q. that very; F. the very. Tanger thinks the Q. printer was misled by the following that, but it is usual for F. to substitute the article for the demonstrative.

161 F. was for Q. is, an arbitrary change.

165-6 F. he for Q. a in both lines.

167 F. it's for Q. tis.

- Ham. Why?
- 170 Clow. Twill not be feene in him there, there the men are as
Ham. How came he mad? [mad as hee.
Clow. Very ftrangely they fay.
Ham. How ftrangely?
Clow. Fayth eene with loofing his wits.
Ham. Vpon what ground?
Clow. Why heere in Denmarke: I haue been Sexten heere
man and boy thirty yeeres.
Ham. How long will a man lie i'th earth ere he rot?
- 180 Clow. Fayth if a be not rotten before a die, as we haue many
pockie corfes now adaies that will fcarce hold the^{laying} in, a will
laft you fome eyght yeere, or nine yeere. A Tanner will laft you
nine yeere.
Ham. Why he more then another?
Clow. Why fir, his hide is fo tand with his trade, that a will
190 keepe out water a great while; & your water is a fore decayer of
your whorfon dead body, heer's a fcull now hath lyen you i'th
earth 23. yeeres.
Ham. Whofe was it?
Clow. A whorfon mad fellowes it was, whofe do you think
it was?
Ham. Nay I know not.
Clow. A peftilence on him for a madde rogue, a pound a
flagon of Renifh on my head once; this fame skull fir, was fir,
Yoricks skull, the Kings Iefter.
- 200 Ham. This?

169 F. omits the first **there**, a scribal or printer's error. •

177 F. *fifteene* for Q. **Sexten**, a curious blunder.

180 F. *Ifaith*, an arbitrary alteration.

180-1 F. *he* for Q. **a** in both lines.

181 Q. omits **now adaies**, supplied from F.

Q. *from eyght*; F. *some eight*. In the first word Q. has fallen into a common "psychological error." When two cases of the same letter (as here *e*) stand together, there is a tendency to omit one of them, to set up, for instance, *The example* or *The xample*, for *The example*.

189-90 F. *Heres a Scull now; this scul has laine in the earth*. This text, followed by many editors, probably shows an actor's interpolation in the repetition of *Scull*, and scribal modernization in the last phrase.

F. *three & twenty*, an arbitrary alteration.

196 F. *peftilence*, probably a misprint.

198 F. *this fame Scull fir, this fame Scull fir, was Yoricks*. The F. text shows either the scribal repetition of a phrase, or, possibly, an actor's interpolation for emphasis. The Q. text needs only a comma before **Yoricks** to make good sense.

Clow. Een that.

Ham. Alas poore *Yoricke*, I knew him *Horatio*, a fellow of infinite ieft, of moft excellent fancie, hee hath borne me on his backe a thouſand times, and now how abhorred in my imagination it is: my gorge rife at it. Here hung thoſe lypes that I
210 haue kiſt I know not howe oft, where be your gibes now? your gamboles, your ſongs, your flaſhes of merriment, that were wont to ſet the table on a roare? not one now to mocke your owne grinning, quite chopſalne. Now get you to my Ladies chamber, & tell her, let her paint an inch thicke, to this fauour ſhe muſt come, make her laugh at that.

Prethee *Horatio* tell me one thing.

Hora. What's that my Lord?

Ham. Dooſt thou thinke *Alexander* lookt a this faſhion i'th earth?

220 *Hora.* Een ſo.

Ham. And ſmelt ſo? pah.

Hora. Een ſo my Lord.

Ham. To what baſe vſes wee may returne *Horatio*! Why may not imagination trace the noble duſt of *Alexander*, till a find it ſtopping a bunghole?

202 F. begins Hamlet's ſpeech with *Let me ſee*. This is followed by moſt editors including Wilson, but it reads like an actor's interpolation, preluding the ſtage-buſineſſ of Hamlet's taking over the ſkull from the Clown.

204 Q. *bore*; F. correctly *borne*; *bore* is a recognized form of the paſt participle, but apparently not uſed elſewhere in Shakeſpeare. Wilson thinks the Q. printer dropped the *n*.

205 F. omits *now*; perhaps the ſcribe was diſturbed by the collocation *now how*.

206 F. omits *in* before *my* and it before *is*. The ſcribe probably took *Imagination* to be the ſubject of *is*.

209-10 F. has queſtion marks after *Gambals*, *Songs*, and *Rore*. Q. omits them all. One after *roare* is ſufficient.

211 F. *No one*, an arbitrary change.

212 F. *leering* for Q. *grinning*, perhaps an attempt to poliſh Hamlet's diction. F. has queſtion marks after *leering* and *chopſalne*, but they do not ſeem needed.

213 Q. *Ladies table*; F. correctly *Ladies chamber*. Q. repeats the *table* of l. 211.

218 Q. *a this*; F. *o'this*, a modernization.

221 Q. has no punctuation after *ſo*; the needed queſtion mark, cf. l. 219, is ſupplied from F.

F. *Puh* for Q. *pah*.

224 Q. has a queſtion mark representing an exclamation after *Horatio*; F. a period.

225 F. *he* for Q. *a*.

- Hor. Twere to confider too curiously to confider fo.
- 230 Ham. No faith, not a iot, but to follow him thether with modefty enough, and likelihood to leade it. *Alexander* dyed, *Alexander* was buried, *Alexander* returneth to duft, the duft is earth, of earth vvee make Lome, & why of that Lome whereto he was conuerted, might they not ftoppe a Beare-barrell? Imperious *Cæfar* dead, and turn'd to Clay, Might ftoppe a hole, to keepe the wind away. O that that earth which kept the world in awe, Should patch a wall t'expell the winters flaw.
- 240 But foft, but foft awhile, here comes the King, Enter K. Q.
The Queene, the Courtiers, who is this they follow? *Laertes and the corfe.*
And with fuch maimed rites? this doth betoken,
The corfe they follow, did with defprat hand

- 227 F. to confider: to curiously to confider fo. An interesting example of F's heavy and bad punctuation.
- 231 Q. has a period; F. a semicolon after it.
Q. omits *as thus*. Wilson calls it "a certain omission"; but it may well be an interpolation in F. of the actor to round out the speech.
- 232 F. *into* for Q. *to*, an arbitrary change.
- 235 Q. Imperious; F. Imperial. Shakespeare uses both forms. The phrase *imperial Caesar* occurs in *Cym.*, 5.5.474; but of that play we have only the F. text, so that the form *Imperious* may have been changed there as here. In at least one other case, *Titus*, 1.1.250, there has been such a change, for there Q. reads *imperious*; F. *imperial*.
- 239 Q. *waters*; F. correctly *winters*, for the *flaw* is the *wind* of l. 237. Q. shows a misreading of *in* as *a*. Shakespeare's carelessly undotted *i* probably led to this minim misprint.

- 240 Q. *awhile*; F. *afide*, probably a prompter's alteration to indicate stage-business, i.e. for Hamlet to step *aside* as the funeral enters.

s.d. Q. Enter K. Q. *Laertes and the corse*

F. Enter King, Queene, *Laertes*, and a coffin with Lords attendant.

An interesting example of Shakespeare's carelessness in the matter of s.d. compared with the elaboration of F. due to the prompter's annotations. That Shakespeare meant the funeral to be attended by others than the three he names is plain from the reference to *Courtiers*, l. 241, and to the *Priest*, l. 263. He left it to the prompter to provide a *coffin* and to rally minor members of the company to follow as the *Priest* and *Lords attendant*. It is curious that neither Q. nor F. introduces the clergyman whom the speech-heading of Q. calls *Doct.*, l. 249 (Shakespeare's word for a learned man, gown'd like a minister) and F. *Priest*, a title caught from the text l. 263. The prompter would arrange that an actor gown'd as a priest would come upon the stage in advance of the pall-bearers and the coffin. Wilson (*What Happens in Hamlet*, p. 300) insists that the speech-heading of Q., i.e. *Doct.*, can mean only a Doctor of Divinity, a clergyman of the Church of England, and accordingly in his edition of *Hamlet* he garbs this actor in cassock and

Foredoo it owne life, twas of some estate,
Couch we a while and marke.

Laer. What Ceremonie els?

Ham. That is *Laertes* a very noble youth, marke.

Laer. What Ceremonie els?

Doct. Her obsequies haue been as farre enlarg'd
250 As we haue warrantie, her death was doubtfull,
And but that great commaund ore-fwayes the order,
She should in ground vnfanctified haue lodg'd
Till the last trumpet: for charitable prayers,
Shardes, flints and pebbles should be throwne on her:
Yet heere she is allow'd her virgin Crants,
Her mayden ftrewments, and the bringing home
Of bell and buriall.

Laer. Must there no more be doone?

Doct. No more be doone.

We should prophane the seruice of the dead,

gown. The only purpose of such a speech-heading in a playhouse ms., he says, is to indicate costume. It may be noted, however, that in Q.₁ as well as in F. the speech-heading is not *Doct.* but *Priest* from which we may infer that the character appeared on Shakespeare's own stage in the costume of a Roman Catholic priest. The point is of no great importance, but the reference earlier in the play to Purgatory and to the Roman sacrament of extreme unction (*unannoyed*, 1.5.78) would seem to show that Shakespeare set the action of *Hamlet* in pre-Reformation Denmark.

244 F. omits *of*.

250 F. *warrantis*, a variant spelling, not used elsewhere by Shakespeare.

•The scribe probably misread final *e* as *s*.

252 Q. *been lodg'd*; F. *haue lodg'd*, followed by all editors. Perhaps Shakespeare first wrote *haue been lodg'd*, the natural phrase here, and then realizing the awkward rhythm, cancelled the phrase, but so imperfectly that the printer read *been* and the scribe *haue*. The Q.₁ text, *had been buried*, suggests that a passive form of the verb was spoken on Shakespeare's stage.

253 F. *praier*, dropping an *s* at the end of the line.

254 Q. omits *Shardes*, supplied from F. It is possible to scan the Q. line by reading *Flints* as equivalent to a full foot, but it is more likely that the printer omitted the word than that the scribe invented it.

255 Q. *Crants*; F. *Rites*, a plain case of scribal alteration to a more familiar word. *Craints*, also spelled *Cranse* and *Corance*, is the English equivalent of the German *Kranz*, wreath, garland. An *N.E.D.* quotation of 1890 shows the word still in existence, but in need of explanation: "The 'crants' were garlands which it was usual to make of white paper and to hang up in the church on the occasion of a girl's funeral." With the last phrase of this quotation cf. *he† virgin crants*. The word occurs nowhere else in Shakespeare.

260 To sing a Requiem and such rest to her
As to peace-parted foules.

Laer. Lay her i'th earth,
And from her faire and vnpolluted flesh
May Violets spring: I tell thee churlish Priest,
A ministring Angell shall my sifter be
When thou lyest howling.

Ham. What, the faire *Ophelia*?

Quee. Sweets to the sweet, farewell,
I hop't thou should'it haue been my *Hamlets* wife,
I thought thy bride-bed to haue deckt sweet maide,
And not haue strew'd thy graue.

Laer. O treble woe

270 Fall tenne times treble on that curfed head,
Whose wicked deede thy most ingenious fence
Deprived thee of, hold off the earth a while,
Till I haue caught her once more in mine armes;

Leaps in the graue.

Now pile your dust vpon the quicke and dead,
Till of this flat a mountaine you haue made

260 **Q. a Requiem**; F. *sage Requiem*. Most editors follow Q. Wilson, who follows F., suggests that the Q. printer omitted *sage* and that the "corrector" inserted *a* to restore the meter; cf. note on 1.2.175. This is possible, but it is not unlikely that *sage* is one of the "improvements" of the scribe. The phrase *to sing sage* reminds one of the hissing geese that Tennyson made a practice of kicking out of his boat. Wilson's reference to *Il Penseroso* (Cambridge *Ham.*, p. 239) has no evidential value since Milton probably read *Hamlet* in the F. text and lifted the adjective *sage* therefrom.

265 Q. has a comma after **Ophelia**; the question mark, perhaps denoting an exclamation is supplied from F.

269 F. *I'have*, an attempt to correct Shakespeare's grammar.

Q. treble woe; F. *terrible woer*, an absurd error due to the scribe's or the printer's misreading.

270 **Q. double**; F. **treble**, undoubtedly right since it repeats the *treble* of l. 269. Wilson notes that in Q. this line begins a new page, M₄ verso, and suggests that the interruption was responsible for the printer's error. It is possible in Elizabethan script to misread *treble* as *double*.

272 **Q. Deprived**; F. *Depru'd*, marking the disyllabic pronunciation.

273 Q. lacks the s.d. *Leaps in the graue* of F. It was probably not in the copy but was added later in the prompt book. It is interesting to note that neither Q. nor F. has a s.d. for Hamlet's leap into the grave. Perhaps the actor of Hamlet knew his business so well that no prompter's direction was necessary here. Q. shows how it was played with two s.d.; *Laertes leaps into the grave* and *Hamlet leaps in after Leartes*.

T'oretop old *Pelion*, or the skyefh head
Of blew *Olympus*.

Ham. What is he whose grieffe
Beares such an emphefis, whose phrafe of forrow
Coniures the wandring starres, and makes them stand
280 Like wonder wounded hearers? this is I
Hamlet the Dane.

Lear. The deuill take thy foule,

Ham. Thou pray'ft not well,
I prethee take thy fingers from my throat,
For though I am not spleenatiue and rafh,
Yet haue I in me something dangerous,
Which let thy wifeneffe feare; hold off thy hand,

King. Pluck them a funder.

Quee. *Hamlet, Hamlet.*

All. Gentlemen.

275 Q. *To'retop*, another apostrophe error; F. does not improve the meter by printing *To o'retop*.

277 Q. **grieffe**; F. *griefes*, an arbitrary change.

279 Q. **coniures**; F. *Coniure*.

280 Q. has a colon after **hearers**; the question mark is supplied from F.

282-3 Q. prints the words **Thou pray'ft** to **throat** as one long line, the last three words of which, preceded by a bracket, are on the level of the next line. Probably some crowding in the ms., due perhaps to revision by the author, led to this awkward typographical arrangement. F. clears it up by printing as two lines: **Thou . . . well**, which completes the previous half line, and **I . . . throat**.

284 Q. **For**; F. *Sir*, possibly an actor's alteration. Q. has *For*, confirming the Q. text as original.

Q. omits **and** before **rafh**, supplied from F.

285 Q. **in me something**; F. *something in me*. The agreement of Q. with F. shows that this transposition was an early change made by prompter or actor.

286 Q. **wifedome**; F. **wifeneffe**. Wilson (*T.L.S.*, June 8, 1933) thinks F. the true reading and Q. a printer's error, due to his eye catching the first half of the word, *wife*, and guessing at the rest, as in 3.1.160. Shakespeare does not use the word *wifeneffe* elsewhere, but it appears in Massinger's *A Very Woman*, 2.3 (1634). Massinger may, indeed, have lifted it from the F. text with which he was familiar, but the sense in which he uses it, i.e. *prudence*, practical wisdom, fits the present context better than does *wifdome*. By the rule of *durior lectio* F. is to be preferred. F. has a period for Q. semicolon after **feare**.

Q. **hold off**; F. **Away**, an arbitrary change.

288 F. omits the speech-heading **All** and the following word **Gentlemen** and assigns the next speech to *Gen.* (i.e. *Gentlemen*) instead of to *Hora.* (as in Q.) to whom it clearly belongs. This can hardly be a prompter's change; it is more likely due to careless transcription by the F. scribe.

Hora. Good my Lord be quiet.

Ham. Why, I will fight with him vpon this theame

290 Vntill my eye-lids will no longer wagge.

Quee. O my fonne, what theame?

Ham. I loued *Ophelia*, forty thoufand brothers
Could not with all theyr quantitie of loue

Make vp my funme. What wilt thou doo for her?

King. O he is mad *Laertes*.

Quee. For loue of God forbear him.

Ham. 'Swounds fiew me what th'owt doe:

Woo't weepe, woo't fight, woo't faft, woo't teare thy felfe,

Woo't drinke vp Efill, eate a Crocadile?

300 Ile doo't, dooft come heere to whine?

To out-face me with leaping in her graue,

Be buried quicke with her, and fo will I.

And if thou prate of mountaines, let them throw

Millions of Acres on vs, till our ground

Sindging his pate againft the burning Zone

Make Offa like a wart, nay and thou'lt mouthe,

Ile rant as wel as thou.

Quee. This is meere madneffe.

And thus a while the fit will worke on him,

292 Q. loued; F. *lou'd*. Cf. note l. 272 above.

293 F. brackets the words with all . . . Love.

294 Q. has a period after her; the question mark is supplied from F.

297 Q. *S'wounds*; F. *Come*, a "purging."

Q. *th'owt*; F. *thou'lt*, a modernization, perhaps to make the sense clearer to the eye.

Q. no doubt represents the old pronunciation.

298-9 As usual F. sprinkles the text with question marks after *weepe*, *fight*, *felfe*, and *Crocadile*. Q. has only the last of these.

298 F. omits *woo't fast*.

299 Q. *Efill*; F. *Efile*, variants of *eisel*, i.e. vinegar.

300 F. inserts *thou* after *dooft*, probably added by the scribe in an attempt to improve the meter, but even so the line is short. A pause after *doo't* is equivalent to the lacking foot. It is amusing to note that Van Dam in his anxiety to secure the regulation five-foot line here inserts the oath, *God's mother*, an oath not found in any of Shakespeare's plays, except *K.H.VI, I, II and III*.

307 F. has the speech-heading *King*. The fact that Q. assigns a corresponding speech to the King goes to show that this was the practice of Shakespeare's stage. Possibly it seemed better to the prompter to take the lines away from the boy who played Gertrude and give them to the old actor playing Claudius. There can be no doubt, however, that Shakespeare wrote them for the Queen; cf. her defense of her son in 4.1.24-7.

308 Q. *this*; F. correctly *thus*.

310 Anon as patient as the female Doue
When that her golden cuplets are disclosed
His silence will fit drooping.

Ham. Heare you fir,

What is the reason that you vse me thus?

I lou'd you euer, but it is no matter,

Let *Hercules* himselfe doe what he may

The Cat will mew, and Dogge will haue his day. *Exit Hamlet*

King. I pray thee good *Horatio* waite vpon him. *and Horatio.*

Strengthen your patience in our last nights speech,

Weele put the matter to the present pufh:

Good *Gertrud* fet some watch ouer your sonne,

320 This graue shall haue a liuing monument,

An houre of quiet shortly shall we see

Til then in patience our proceeding be.

Exeunt.

V. ii *Enter Hamlet and Horatio.*

* *Ham.* So much for this fir, now shall you see the other,
You doe remember all the circumstance.

Hora. Remember it my Lord?

Ham. Sir in my hart there was a kind of fighting

That would not let me sleepe, me thought I lay

Worse then the mutines in the Bilboes, rashly,

310 *F. Cuplet*, dropping the final *s*.

315 For the *Q. s.d.* after this line *F.* has only *Exit*. Evidently *Hamlet* goes out alone as the next line is addressed to *Horatio* who then follows his friend.

316 *F. you* for *Q. thee*.

317 *F. you* for *Q. your*.

321 *Q. thirtie*, found in all three photostats of the 1604 *Q.* This nonsensical word troubled the proof-reader of the 1605 issue who altered it by guess to *thereby*, found in all the 1605 *Qq.*, which has actually been adopted by some editors. The *F. shortly* gives a much better sense and is almost certainly Shakespeare's word, misread by the *Q.* printer.

Act 5, scene 2

1 *F. let me see*. "The compositor repeating to himself the words he was going to put in type, involuntarily changed **shall you see** into the commonplace **let me see**."—Tanger.

2 The Griggs facsimile has a comma after *circumstance* due to a blurred period in Hunt. The Folger and E.C. copies have a period.

3 *Q.* has a period after *Lord*; the question mark is supplied from *F.*

5 *Q. my thought*, an *e* as *y* error; *F.* correctly *me thought*.

6 *Q. bilbo*; *F. Bilboes*. The change to the plural in which the word almost always appears was made as early as *Q.*. Probably the *Q.* printer dropped the final *s*.

- And prayfd be rafhnes for it: let vs knowe,
 Our indifcretion fometime ferues vs well
 When our deepe plots doe pall, & that fhould learne vs
 10 There's a diuinity that fhapes our ends,
 Rough hew them how we will.

Hora. That is moft certaine.

- Ham.* Vp from my Cabin,
 My fea-gowne fcarft about me in the darke
 Gropt I to find out them, had my defire,
 Fingard their packet, and in fine with-drew
 To mine owne roome againe, making fo bold.
 My feares forgetting manners, to vnseale
 Their graund commifion; where I found *Horatio*
 Ah royall knauery! an exact command
 20 Larded with many feuerall forts of reafons,
 Importing Denmarkes health, and *Englands* to,
 With hoe fuch bugges and goblins in my life,

- 7 *Q. prayfd*; F. *praise*, showing the common misreading of final *d* as *e*. Perhaps in an attempt to clarify the context F. brackets the words *And praise . . . it*.

The colon after *for it* in Q. represents a long pause. The narrative is interrupted here for a characteristic generalization, *let vs knowe, etc.*, by Hamlet, after which and after Horatio's brief interjection, Hamlet resumes his narrative. Syntactically, *rafhly*, l. 6, modifies *Gropt*, l. 14.

- 8 F. *fometimes*, the more conventional adverbial usage.

- 9 F. *deare*, probably a scribal error.

Q. pall, found in all three 1604 copies; F. *paule*. For some reason this word troubled an early "corrector," for the 1605 Qq. read *fall*, a miscorrection which continues in later Qq. Pope's emendation, *fail*, has been adopted by some editors, but *pall* makes good sense and is used by Shakespeare in the sense of "fail" in *A. and C.*, 2.7.88.

Q. learne vs; F. *teach vs*, a scribal alteration to secure more accurate expression; but Shakespeare repeatedly uses *learn* in the sense of *teach* (*R. and J.*, 1.4.93, and elsewhere). The usage is still common in colloquial speech.

- 17 *Q. vnfold*; F. *vnfeale*, followed by Wilson and most editors; *vnfeale* suits the context better since Hamlet must have unsealed the *commission* to seal it up again; cf. ll. 47-52 below. The Q. printer may have been misled by the letters or the sound of the last word in the preceding line, **bold**. If Shakespeare wrote *vnfele* the misreading of *f* as *f*, *e* as *o*, and final *e* as *d* would explain *vnfold*.

- 17-18 Commas are needed after **bold and manners**. F. puts the words *My . . . manners* in parentheses.

- 19 *Q. A royall*; F. *Oh royall*. *Q. A* = **Ah**. *Q.* has a comma, F. a colon for exclamation after *knauery*.

- 20 F. *reason*, final *s* has been dropped.

That on the fuperuife no leaſure bated,
No not to ſtay the grinding of the Axe,
My head ſhould be ſtrooke off.

Hora. If't poſſible?

Ham. Heeres the commiſſion, read it at more leaſure,
But wilt thou heare now how I did proceed?

Hora. I befeech you.

Ham. Being thus benetted round with villainies,
30 Ere I could make a prologue to my braines,
They had begunne the play, I fat me downe,
Deuiſd a new commiſſion, wrote it faire,
I once did hold it as our ſtatifts doe,
A baſeneſſe to write faire, and labourd much
How to forget that learning, but fir now
It did me yemens ſeruice, wilt thou know
Th'effect of what I wrote?

Hora. I good my Lord.

Ham. An earneſt coniuration from the King,
As *England* was his faithfull tributary,
40 As loue betweene them like the palme might florifh,
As peace ſhould ſtill her wheaten garland weare
And ſtand a Comma tweene their amities,
And many fuch like as-es of great charge,

27 **Q. heare now how**; *F. heare me now*, followed by moſt editors, probably to avoid the claſh of *now* and *how*; but there is no need to change. The queſtion mark at the end of the line is ſupplied from *F.*

29 **Q. villainies**; *F. Villaines*; both have dropped the *i* of the laſt ſyllable. As Shakespeare often fails to dot his *i*'s the miſtake was eaſy. The meter requires a triſyllable.

30 **Q. Or**; *F. Ere* followed by moſt modern editors except Wilson and probably correct. It is true that *or* once had the ſenſe of *ere* and *N.E.D.* quotes an inſtance of this as late as Dryden; but Shakespeare commonly uſes the combination *or ere* (*Temp.*, 1.2.11; *Mac.*, 4.3.173; and *Ham.*, 1.2.147) in this ſenſe. In the only caſe in Shakespeare where *or* ſtanding alone is commonly interpreted as meaning *erc*, it, has probably the ſenſe "or elſe" (*Cym.*, 2.4.14).

36 **Q. yemens**; *F. Yeomans*, variant ſpellings.

37 **F. The effects**, an arbitrary change.

40 **Q. them like**; *F. Them, as*; *F.* ſhows the ſcribe's repetition of *as* earlier in the line.

Q. might; *F. ſhould*, perhaps an anticipation of *ſhould* in the next line.

43 **Q. like, as fir**; *F. like Affis*. The *Q.* reading is nonſenſe and ſpoils the play on words. Wilson ſuggeſts that the printer ſet up *affir*, "corrected" it by dividing it into two words, and put a comma after *like* to eke out a ſenſe. Some modern editors read *As-es* which ſeems to obſcure the pun.

That on the view, and knowing of these contents,
Without debatement further more or lesse,
He should those bearers put to suddaine death,
Not shriuing time alow'd.

Hora. How was this feald?

Ham. When euen in that was heauen ordinant,
I had my fathers fignet in my purse
50 Which was the modill of that Danifh feale,
Folded the writ vp in the forme of th'other,
Subcrib'd it, gau't th'imprefion, plac'd it safely,
The changling neuer knowne: now the next day,
Was our Sea fight, and what to this was fequent
Thou knowest already.

Hora. So *Guyldenfterne* and *Rofencrans* goe too't.

Ham. Why man they did make loue to this imployment,
They are not neere my confcience, their defeat
Dooes by their owne infinnuation growe,
60 Tis dangerous when the baser nature comes
Betweene the paffe and fell incenced points
Of mighty oppofits.

Hora. Why what a King is this!

Ham. Dooes it not thinke thee stand me now vpon?
He that hath kild my King, and whor'd my mother,
Pop't in betweene th'election and my hopes,

44 *F. know*; possibly the *F.* printer has dropped *ing*; it seems likely, however, that this was a scribal change *metris causa*. Shakespeare regularly accents *contents* on the second syllable; the scribe felt that the line in his copy had an extra syllable and so eliminated *ing*. But *know* can hardly be used as equivalent to knowledge.

46 *F. the bearers*; again *F.* avoids the demonstrative pronoun.

48 *F. ordinate*, an arbitrary change. Perhaps Shakespeare wrote *ordināt* and the *F.* scribe failed to note the macron, a not uncommon failure in Elizabethan mss.

51 *F.* omits *the* before *forme* and so ruins the rhythm of the line.

52 *Q. Subscribe*, the common final *d* as *e* error. *F.* correctly *Subscrib'd*.

54 *F. fement*, a compositor's error.

55 *F. know'st* showing pronunciation.

57 *Q.* omits this line, supplied from *F.* It is more likely that the *Q.* printer dropped than that the scribe invented it. *F.* has no punctuation at the end of the line. A comma may represent Shakespeare's punctuation.

58 *F. debate*, a scribal error.

59 *F. Doth. Q. and F. vary between s and th forms.*

64 *F. thinkst thee*, perhaps an attempt to correct Shakespeare's *segrammar*. If so, the scribe should have gone on and changed *thee* to *thou*. The *Q. thinke* is imperative and the sense would be clearer if *thinke thee* were set off with commas.

Throwne out his Angle for my proper life,
And with such cufnage, if't not perfect confcience,
To quit him with this arme? And is't not to be damn'd
To let this Canker of our nature come

70 In further euill?

Hor. It muft be fhortly knowne to him from England
What is the iffue of the bufineffe there.

Ham. It will be fhort, the *interim's* mine.
And a mans life's no more then to fay one:

But I am very forry good *Horatio*,
That to *Laertes* I forgot my felfe;
For by the image of my Caufe, I fee
The Portraiture of his; Ile court his fauors:
But fure the brauery of his griefe did put me

80 Into a Towring paffion.

Hor. Peace, who comes heere?

Enter a Courtier.

Cour. Your Lordfhip is right welcome backe to Denmarke.

68-81 Here occurs one of the longer omissions of Q. from **To quit him**, l. 68, to **comes here**, l. 81. There is no assignable reason for this cut, such as the discretion which led to earlier omissions (cf. notes on 2.2.245 and 2.2.352 above). Hamlet has talked too often of killing the King for the censor to take alarm at this late point in the play. It is possible that the Q. printer, who seems to have rushed the last part of his job, let his eye stray from **conscience** to **comes here**, words that looked alike to him, omitted all that lay between and put a question mark, for exclamation, after **conscience**, to mark the close of the speech. It is necessary to restore from F. the omitted lines since their omission leaves Hamlet's speech hanging in the air.

69 F. *come*. Kellner (p. 47) suggests *teeme*, i.e. teem, swell. There is no need of change since *come in* may be explained as *advance, increase*.

73-5 F. lines as follows: **It . . . short The . . . more Then . . . Horatio.**

78 F. *count*, read *court*; it is an *r* as *n* misreading.

82 For the Q. s.d. **Enter a Courtier**. F. has *Enter young Ofricke*, a name and epithet caught from the Q. text, l. 204 (the name is there misprinted *Oftrike*, see note *ad loc.*), a passage omitted in F. As a result of the differing s.d. here Q. has **Cour.**; F. *Ofr.* as speech-headings as far as l. 277 where Q. introduces the speech-heading *Ofr.* It is to be noted that the Courtier and Osricke (Ostricke) are one and the same, as is clear from l. 204 where the Lord speaks of Osricke's carrying back Hamlet's acceptance of the match. It seems characteristic of Shakespeare's method of composition that he first introduces a nameless courtier, later names him in the dialogue, and having thus baptized him gives him named speech-headings thereafter.

• Wilson's idea that the "corrector" altered Shakespeare's spelling *Ofricke* to *Oftricke* in order to give the lawping for a birdlike name is rejected by Greg as fantastic. Greg states that a long secretary *f* linked to a small

Ham. I humbly thanke you fir.
Dooft know this water fly?

Hora. No my good Lord.

Ham. Thy ftate is the more gracious, for tis a vice to know him. He hath much land and fertill: let a beaft be Lord of beafts,
90 and his crib fhall ftand at the Kings meffe, tis a chough, but as I fay, fpacious in the poffeffion of durt.

Cour. Sweete Lord, if your Lordfhippe were at leafure, I fhould impart a thing to you from his Maieftie.

Ham. I will receaue it fir with all dilligence of fpirit, put your bonnet to his right vfe, tis for the head.

Cour. I thanke your Lordfhip, it is very hot.

Ham. No belieue me, tis very cold, the wind is Northerly.

100 *Cour.* It is indifferent cold my Lord indeed.

Ham. But yet me thinkes it is very foultry and hot for my completion.

letter following may easily be misread as *ft*. The error in *Oftricke* is the printer's, not the corrector's.

83 Q. *humble*; F. correctly *humbly*.

88 Q. has a comma; F. a colon after *him*. Since the next word in Q. begins with a capital, it appears that the comma here, as often, stands for a period.

90 F. *faw*, probably a misprint for Q. *fay*.

92 Q. *Lordfhippe*; F. *friendfhip*. This interesting variant has apparently been unnoticed by commentators. Since it is difficult to take *friendfhip* as a scribal error for *Lordfhippe* we must consider the F. reading as a deliberate alteration, possibly with the intention of heightening the affectation of Osrick's address.

94 F. omits *sir* after *it*.

Q. *withall*; F. correctly *with all*; cf. note on 4.7.169.

95 Q. omits *put* before *bonnet*, supplied from F. Q. makes sense without this word, but it seems more likely that the Q. printer dropped it, as he did so many short words, than that the scribe invented it.

97 Q. *it is*; F. *'tis*, probably the F. scribe was influenced by *tis* in the lines that precede and follow this.

100 Q. *indefferent*; F. *indifferent*. The misspelling of Q. is probably due to Shakespeare's failure to dot his *i*'s.

101 F. omits *But yet*.

Q. *fully*; F. *foultry*. Q. is clearly a printer's error. Perhaps Shakespeare spelled the word *sultry* here and *soultery*, both recognized forms, two lines below. F. normalizes the spelling in both cases.

Q. *hot, or my*; F. *hot for my*. Some editors follow Q. assuming that Hamlet's speech is interrupted by Osrick. It seems more likely that F. is right and that the Q. printer inserted a comma after *hot* instead of after *soultry* where it appears in F. and forgot or dropped the initial *f* in *for*. It is possible that this letter was blurred or dim in his "copy" and that he mistook it for a comma.

Cour. Exceedingly my Lord, it is very foultry, as 'twere I cannot tell how: my Lord his Maieftie bad me fignifie to you, that a has layed a great wager on your head, fir this is the matter.

Ham. I befeech you remember.

110 *Cour.* Nay good my Lord for my eafe in good faith, fir here is newly com to Court *Laertes*, belieue me an absolute gentleman, ful of moft excellent differences, of very foft fociety, and great fhowing: indeede to speake feelingly of him, hee is the card or kalender of gentry: for you fhall find in him the continent of what parts a Gentleman would fee.

Ham. Sir, his definement fuffers no perdition in you, though I know to deuide him inuentorially, would dofie th'arithmaticke
120 of memory, and yet but yaw neither in refpect of his quick faile,

103 Q. *t'were*; F. *'twere*.

104 Q. lacks the word, *but*, appearing in F. before *my Lord*. It is possible that the Q. printer dropped it, but quite as likely it is an actor's insertion to smooth over the transition in his speech. Wilson follows F., but the Q. text may stand.

105 F. *he* for Q. *a*.

110 Q. *good my Lord*; F. *in good faith*. The scribe anticipates a phrase occurring a little later in this line in both texts. F. *mine* for Q. *my*.

110-50 F. omits 41 lines from *here is* to *unfellowed* inclusive. This is a prompter's cut to shorten an overlong scene. It patches the hole by using one of the omitted lines, l. 143, and adding the phrase, *at his weapon* (cf. Q. *for this weapon*, l. 149). The patch is so neat that one might also suspect Shakespeare of making it himself.

111 Q. *gentlemen*, corrected in Q. to *gentleman*.

113 All the 1604 Qq. read *fellingly*, which Wilson accepts in the sense of "like a salesman." But there is, according to *N.E.D.*, no such word in English. The 1605 Qq. read *fellingly*, probably a misprint for *feelingly*, sympathetically, cf. *Tw.N.*, 2.3.172, and *feelingly* appears as a correction in Q. Certain nautical terms that follow: *card*, *calendar*, *yaw*, *faile*, etc., might suggest that Shakespeare wrote *failingly*, but no such word is known.

115 Q. *part*. Wilson accepts Nicholson's conjecture *parts*, which is strengthened by *parts* in the same sense in 4.7.74 above. He interprets the passage: *Laertes*, the continent of gentry, contains in himself all the parts (i.e. qualities) that a gentleman would wish to see in his travels. The Q. printer probably dropped the final *s*.

119 All the 1604 Qq. read *dofie*; the 1605 Qq. *dazzie*, taken by most modern editors to mean *dizzy*, a word which appears in Q., although "dazzle" is perhaps a more likely word. *N.E.D.* gives *dofie*, or *dozy*, as an old form of the verb "to dizzy" and it may be retained here. Apparently this rare word troubled the "corrector" who seems to have changed it to "dazzle" misprinted *dazzie*, a nonsense word, in the 1605 Qq.

120 The 1604 Qq. read *yaw*; the 1605 Qq. *raw*, a miscorrection persisting in later Qq. This is a patent attempt on the part of the corrector to eliminate the unfamiliar word *yaw* and substitute a more usual one. But *raw* makes

but in the veritie of extolment, I take him to be a foule of great article, & his infusion of such dearth and rarenesse, as to make true diction of him, his semblable is his mirrour, & who els would trace him, his vmbage, nothing more.

Cour. Your Lordship speakes most infallibly of him.

Ham. The concernancy fir, why doe we wrap the gentleman in our more rawer breath?

130 *Cour.* Sir?

Hora. Ift not possible to vnderstand in another tongue? You will too't fir really.

Ham. What imports the nomination of this gentleman?

Cour. Of *Laertes*?

Hora. His purse is empty already, all's golden words are spent.

Ham. Of him fir.

Cour. I know you are not ignorant.

140 *Ham.* I would you did fir, yet in faith if you did, it would not much approue me, well fir.

Cour. You are not ignorant of what excellence *Laertes* is.

Ham. I dare not confesse that, least I should compare with him in excellence, but to know a man wel, were to knowe himselfe.

Cour. I meane fir for his weapon, but in the imputation laide
150 on him by them, in his meed hee's vnfollowed.

nonsense; a verb like *yaw*, to swing from side to side like a badly steered ship and so to lose speed, is required here, and not an adjective. The sense couched in the affected speech with which Hamlet mocks Osrick is: to enumerate the parts of *Laertes* would dizzy memory and yet it would *yaw* in attempting to follow his quick sail.

130 Q. has a period after *Sir*, a question mark seems needed.

132 The 1604 Qq. read *too't*; the 1605 Qq. *doo't*, followed by later Qq. and some modern editors. The phrase *you will too't* (to it) seems to have troubled the "corrector" in 1605, as it has troubled modern commentators, and his *doo't* is an evasion of the difficulty. Probably *you will too't* means something like "you'll go there"; cf. 2.2.449 above.

Q. has a comma after *tongue*; a question mark seems needed. Another is wanted after *gentleman*, l. 133, and after *Laertes*, l. 134, where Q. has periods.

148 Q. *this weapon*; F. correctly *his weapon*.

150 Wilson follows the Q. punctuation *him, by them in his meed, hee's unfollowed.*; and explains *by them in his meed* as meaning "by those in his pay." It seems unlikely that Osrick would cite the testimony of the hired servants of *Laertes*; more likely that *them* refers in a general way to the admirers of *Laertes* and that in *his meed* means "in his merit, or excellence." The sense becomes clearer by shifting the comma after *him* to follow *them* and by cancelling the comma after *meed*.

Ham. What's his weapon?

Cour. Rapier and Dagger.

Ham. That's two of his weapons, but well.

Cour. The King fir hath wagerd with him fix Barbary horfes, againft the which hee has impaund as I take it fix French Rapiers and Poyuards, with their afsignes, as girdle, hangers and fo. Three of the carriages in faith, are very deare to fancy, very
160 reponfiue to the hilts, moft delicate carriages, and of very liberall conceit.

Ham. What call you the carriages?

Hora. I knew you muft be edified by the margent ere you had
done.

Cour. The carriages fir are the hangers.

Ham. The phrafe would bee more Ierman to the matter if wee could carry a cannon by our fides, I would it might be hangers till then, but on, fix Barbry horfes againft fix French
170 fwords, their afsignes, and three liberall conceited carriages,

154 F. *ha's* for Q. *hath*.

Q. *wagerd*; F. *wag'd*, a scribal error.

155 Q. *againgst*, a misprint appearing in both Hunt. and Eliz. Club copies; the Folger has a torn page here, replaced by ms. which reads *against*, as does F.

F. omits *has*.

Q. *impaund*; F. *impon'd* (see also l. 171 below). The Q. form is a variant of *impawn*, used elsewhere (*Wint. Tale*, 1.2.436; *K.H.V.*, 1.2.21) by Shakespeare in the sense of pledge or stake. The *N.E.D.* gives no other instance of *impon* (nowhere else in Shakespeare) in the sense of "stake" than this one passage.

158 Q. *hanger*; F. correctly *hangers*. There were two hangers to each girdle. F. or *fo* for Q. *and fo*, a scribal error.

159 The 1604 Qq. have the misprint *reponfiue* corrected in the 1605 Qq. and F. to *reponfiue*.

162-3 F. omits Horatio's speech, probably an accidental omission by the scribe or printer jumping from *the carriages*, l. 161 to *The carriages*, l. 164.

164 Q. *carriage*; F. correctly *carriages*. The plural, as above, l. 161, is required.

165 Q. *Ierman*; F. modernizes *Germaine*.

166 F. omits *a* before *cannon*.

167 The 1604 Qq. read *it be hangers*, omitting the necessary word *might*. The 1605 Qq. restore this word but insert it in the wrong place reading *it be might hangers*. The "corrector's" marginal *might* has been misplaced by the compositor. F. correctly *it might be hangers*.

169 Q. has no punctuation after *fwords*; F. has a colon which is too heavy; a comma suffices.

170 F. *but* for Q. *bet*, a printer's error.

that's the French bet against the Danish, why is this all impaund as you call it?

Cour. The King fir, hath layd fir, that in a dozen paffes betweene your felfe and him, hee fhall not excede you three hits, hee hath layd on twelue for nine, and it would come to immediate triall, if your Lordshippe would vouchsafe the anfwere.

Ham. How if I anfwere no?

Cour. I meane my Lord the oppofition of your perfon in triall.

180 *Ham.* Sir I will walke heere in the hall, if it please his Maieftie, it is the breathing time of day with me, let the foiles be brought, the Gentleman willing, and the King hold his purpose; I will winne for him and I can, if not, I will gaine nothing but my fhame, and the odde hits.

Cour. Shall I deliuer you fo?

Ham. To this effect fir, after what florish your nature will.

Cour. I commend my duty to your Lordshippe. *Exit Ofrick.*

190 *Ham.* Yours yours; hee doo's well to commend it himfelfe, there are no tongues els for's turne.

Hora. This Lapwing runnes away with the fhell on his head.

171 Q. accidentally omits *impon'd as*, found in F. The Q. spelling in l. 155 is retained.

F. omits *all* in this line and is followed by many editors, but the word belongs in the text.

172 F. omits *fir* after *layd*.

173 F. *you* for Q. *your felfe*.

174 The Q. text is not very clear and the ms. must have puzzled the F. scribe who wrote *He hath one twelve for mine*, thus reducing an obscure phrase to nonsense. The sense seems to be that in twelve bouts Laertes shall not exceed Hamlet by more than three hits. For a different explanation see Wilson's note, *Cambridge Hamlet*, p. 247.

Q. *it would*; F. *that would*. Probably a ms. *y^t* was misread by the scribe as *that*.

181 F. *'tis* for Q. *it is*.

184 Q. *and* (i.e. *an, if*); F. *if*, a modernization.

186 F. *redeliuer you ee'n fo*, followed by Wilson and most editors, but it may well represent an embroidery of the text by the actor of Osricke. Q. is quite satisfactory.

189 Neither Q. nor F. has a s.d. here, but Osricke must go out after this line.

190 Q. *Yours doo's well*; F. *Yours, yours*; (a characteristic Hamlet repetition) *hee does well*, plainly the correct reading. The Q. printer has omitted the second *yours* and an *a = he*.

191 F. *for's tongue*, repeating *tongues* just before in this line.

Ham. A did complie fir with his dugge before a fukkit it, thus has he and many more of the fame Beauy that I know the droffy age dotes on, only got the tune of the time, and out of an habit of
200 incounter, a kind of yesty colection, which carries them through

195 The 1604 Qq. read *A did fir with*; the 1605 Qq. *A did fo fir with*, an obvious attempt to supply a missing word. F. gives it in the slightly altered phrase: *He did complie with*, omitting *fir* which must have stood in the ms. and changing *A* to *He*.

196 F. *had he* for Q. *has he*, a scribal error.

F. *mine more* for Q. *many more*, a scribal error.

197 Q. *breede*? F. **Beauy** (i.e. bevy). Editors are divided, but F. is probably correct. *Bevy* is used elsewhere by Shakespeare (*K.H.VIII*, 1.4.4) and is more in consonance with the *lapwing*, 1. 192, than *breede*. Since it is a technical term for a flock of birds as a "bevy of quails or larks" (*N.E.D.*) it would seem as if the Q. printer misread, or misunderstood the word, and set up the more familiar *breede*. Wilson suggests a ms. *beuie*, misread as *bead* and miscorrected *breede*. It is hard to imagine the F. scribe inventing this apt term.

198 Q. *out of an habit of incounter*; F. *outward habite of encounter*, followed by most editors, Wilson interprets Q. thus: Osrick and his bevy have *out of an habit of encounter* (i.e. constantly encountering the *tune of the time*) acquired a kind of **ysty** (frothy) **collection** (convention). This seems more Shakespearean in idiom than the F. text where *outward habit*, like *tune of the time* and **collection** is an object of *got*. The F. scribe was puzzled and either misread *out of an* as *outward*, or else rewrote the phrase to make what seemed to him, as to most editors, better sense. But the Q. text should stand.

200 Q. *histy*; F. correctly **ysty**, a variant of *yeasty*. The Q. printer misread *y* as *h* and *e* as *i*. Shakespeare spells the word *ysty* in the only other place (*Mac.*, 4.1.53) where it occurs in his work.

Q. *prophane and trennowed*; F. *fond and winnowed*. Neither reading can be right, although F. approaches the truth. Warburton's emendation *fann'd* best suits the context and the *ductus litteratum*. If Shakespeare wrote *fand* for *fann'd*, as he might well have done, the Q. printer might easily have read it as *fane* and so miscorrected to *prophanc*, whereas the scribe would have read the word as *fond*. A misreading by the Q. printer of initial *w* as *tr* and of Shakespeare's dotted *i* as *e* would turn *winnowed* into *trennowed*, an impossible word. Wilson argues at some length for *profound* as the true reading, but the conjunction *profound* and *winnowed* is incongruous.

We may paraphrase: The frothy conventions of Osric and his like penetrate even into the most select (*fann'd* and *winnowed*, as chaff being blown away leaves the pure wheat) society but, continues Hamlet, but them (Osric *et al.*) to the test and they burst like bubbles. The phrase *fann'd* and *winnowed* throws some light on *chiefe*, *cheff* (i.e. sheaf) in 1.3.74 above.

and through the most fane and winnowed opinions, and doe but
blowe them to their triall, the bubbles are out.

Enter a Lord.

Lord. My Lord, his Maiestie commended him to you by
young *Osricke*, who brings backe to him that you attend him in
the hall, he sends to know if your pleasure hold to play with
Laertes, or that you will take longer time?

Ham. I am constant to my purposes, they followe the Kings
210 pleasure, if his fitness speaks, mine is ready: now or whensoever,
prouided I be so able as now.

Lord. The King, and Queene, and all are coming downe.

Ham. In happy time.

Lord. The Queene desires you to vse some gentle entertain-
ment to *Laertes*, before you fall to play.

Ham. Shee well instructs me.

Exit Lord.

Hora. You will loose my Lord.

220 *Ham.* I doe not thinke so, since he went into France, I haue
bene in continuall practise, I shall winne at the ods; thou would'st
not thinke how ill all's heere about my hart, but it is no matter.

Hora. Nay good my Lord.

Ham. It is but foolery, but it is such a kinde of gain-giuing,
as would perhaps trouble a woman.

Hora. If your minde dislike any thing, obey it. I will forstal
their repaire hether, and say you are not fit.

230 *Ham.* Not a whit, we define augury, there is speciall prou-
idence in the fall of a Sparrowe, if it be now, tis not to come, if it
be not to come, it will be now, if it be not now, yet it will come,

202 F. *tryalls*.

203-18 F. omits the s.d. before l. 203 and all that follows down to and includ-
ing *instructs me*, a prompter's cut, saving another actor, the Lord of Q.

206 Q. *Ostricke*. This is the first time that the name appears in the text;
cf. note on l. 82 above.

217 The Griggs facsimile omits to before *Laertes*. It appears in all copies
of Q.

218 Q. has no s.d. after this line, but the Lord must go out to carry Hamlet's
message.

219 Q. lacks the words *this wager*, found in F. The phrase is not necessary
and may have been inserted by actor or scribe for the sake of clearness.

222 Q. lacks *but*, found in F. before *thou*. As in l. 104 it may be an actor's
insertion to mark the transition.

F. *how all heere*, a double omission by scribe or printer.

225 Q. *gamgiuing*, a minim error; F. correctly *gain-giuing*.

227 F. omits it after *obey*.

230 F. *there's a special*, an arbitrary alteration, accepted by most editors.

231 Q. omits *now* after the first *be*, supplied from F.

233 Q. *well come*, an *e* for undotted *i*. F. correctly *will come*.

the readiness is all, since no man of ought he leaues knowes,
what ift to leaue betimes? let be.

*A table prepard, Trumpets, Drums and officers with Cushions,
King, Queene, and all the state, Foiles, daggers,
and Laertes.*

King. Come Hamlet, come and take this hand from me.

Ham. Giue me your pardon fir, I haue done you wrong,

But pardon't as you are a gentleman,

240 This prefrence knowes, and you must needs haue heard,

How I am punnisht with a fore distraction,

What I haue done

That might your nature, honor, and exception

234-5 F. *since no man ha's ought of what he leaues. What is't to leaue betimes?*, omitting *let be*. Most editors follow F. changing the period after *leaues*, which is certainly wrong, to a comma. But the F. text looks like the scribe's attempt to clean up an obscure passage nullified by the printer's absurd punctuation. Shakespeare's ms. may have been confused here; perhaps he wrote, or meant to write "since no man knows ought of what he leaues, what is't to leaue betimes?" If so the Q. printer muddled the passage, possibly in transference from the "stick" to the "forme," by omitting the first **what** and misplacing **knowes** and **of**. Yet the Q. text may stand with a comma after **knowes** instead of after *leaues* and a question mark after **betimes**. Wilson retains the Q. text, unchanged and construes *what is't to leaue betimes* as an object clause after *knowes*. This is a difficult construction and gives a hardly intelligible sense.

235 In the s.d. after this line Q. has *Cushion*. A final *s* must have been dropped since there must have been at least two cushions for the chairs of the King and Queen.

It is interesting to note that the long F. s.d. here omits the cushions, perhaps no longer required for more sumptuous chairs of state and also, strangely, the music with which Shakespeare usually marks an official entrance of the King. It substitutes *Gauntlets* for the **daggers** of Q.; this probably indicates a different type of fencing (see Wilson's note, *Cambridge Hamlet*, p. 250) and brings in a *Table and Flagons of Wine on it*. The *flagons* are needed in this scene, but are not mentioned by Shakespeare in his ms., doubtless because he knew that the prompter would provide them. It may be noted here that Q. lacks many needed s.d. in this scene; perhaps Shakespeare was tiring as he finished *Hamlet*.

237* F. *I'ue* for Q. *I haue*, the customary contraction to mark pronunciation.
239-41 Some confusion in the ms. here has led to misalignment in Q., which prints the first four lines of Hamlet's speech thus: **Giue . . . wrong / But . . . knowes / And . . . punisht / With . . . done /**. Plainly the second line is wrong for the meter is complete before the phrase *this prefrence knowes*.

The F. scribe's attempt to correct matters makes things worse, as F. prints *This prefrence knowes* as a separate line and omits a before **fore**, l. 241. This last change makes **distractiō** a word of four syllables and

- Roughly awake, I heare proclame was madneffe,
 Wait *Hamlet* wronged *Laertes*? neuer *Hamlet*.
 If *Hamlet* from himfelfe be tane away,
 And when hee's not himfelfe, dooes wrong *Laertes*,
 Then *Hamlet* dooes it not, *Hamlet* denies it,
 Who dooes it then? his madneffe. Ift be fo,
Hamlet is of the faction that is wronged,
 250 His madneffe is poore *Hamlets* enimie,
 Sir, in this Audience,
 Let my disclaiming from a purpos'd euill,
 Free me fo farre in your most generous thoughts
 That I haue shot my arrowe ore the house
 And hurt my brother.
- Laer.* I am fatisfied in nature,
 Whose motiue in this case should stirre me most
 To my reuendge, but in my tearmes of honor
 I stand aloofe, and will no reconcilment,
 Till by some elder Maisters of knowne honor
 260 I haue a voyce and prefident of peace
 To keepe my name vngord: but till that time
 I doe receaue your offerd loue, like loue,
 And will not wrong it.

such a "dissolution" of final -ion in the middle of a line is rare in Shakespeare.

The arrangement in the text gives regular lines down to *what I haue done*. The pause after this short line is most fitting as Hamlet here recalls his killing of Polonius and his responsibility for Ophelia's madness and death.

- 243 Q. *heare*, a Shakespearean spelling; cf. l. 336. F. modernizes *heere*.
 245 All Qq. 1604 and 1605 read *tane*. The Griggs facsimile, p. 95, has *fame*, but a microscopic inspection shows that a rather faint *t* has been altered to an *f* as is clear by comparison with other *f*'s on the same page.
 251 Q. omits *Sir, in this Audience*, supplied from F., another instance of a short line omitted by the Q. printer.
 254 F. *mine* for Q. *my*.
 255 F. *Mother*, a misprint or scribal error.
 258 Q. *a loofe*; F. *aloofe*.
 260 Both Q. and F. have *prefident*, a common sixteenth century spelling of "precedent"; cf. the dedication to Sidney of *The Shepherd's Calendar*. Shakespeare uses this same spelling in *Lucrece*, l. 1261.
 261 Q. omits *keepe*, supplied from F.
 F. *vngorg'd*, a misprint.
 Q. *all*. Wilson suggests a misprint *ill*, due to a dropped *t* and a "misconrection" to *all*. F. reads correctly *till*.
 262 Q. has a comma; F. no punctuation after the first *loue*. It is unusual for Q. to show a heavier punctuation than F. Perhaps Shakespeare meant *Laertes*, conscious of guilt, to pause here.

Ham. I embrace it freely,
And will this brothers wager franckly play.
Giue vs the foiles.

Laer. Come, one for me.

Ham. Ile be your foile *Laertes*, in mine ignorance
Your skill fhall like a ftarre i'th darkeft night
Stick fiery of indeed.

Laer. You mocke me fir.

Ham. No by this hand.

270 *King.* Giue them the foiles young *Osricke*, cofin *Hamlet*,
You knowe the wager.

Ham. Very well my Lord.

Your grace has layed the ods a'th' weaker fide.

King. I doe not feare it, I haue feene you both,
But fince he is better'd, we haue therefore ods.

Laer. This is to heauy: let me fee another.

263-4 Q. prints the words **and will to franckly play** as part of l. 263 carrying over the last two to the left margin of the line below. F. rearranges correctly, but inserts *do* before **embrace** which hurts the meter.

265 After **foiles** F. gives Hamlet the phrase *Come on*. Most editors, including Wilson, follow F. and so secure a regular line, but it seems likely that the phrase is an instance of the actor's insertion. It may, however, be an anticipation by the scribe of **Come, one** immediately following, spoken by Laertes. Hamlet has no reason to say *come on* before the match begins.

272 F. hath for Q. has.

F. has **a'th'** for Q. *a'th*. As a rule F. normalizes **a** to *o* in such phrases. Here the scribe copies mechanically.

274 Q. *better*; F. **better'd**, followed by all editors including Wilson, who in the Cranach *Hamlet* accepted Q. interpreting *better* as the one who proposes the bet. In the Cambridge *Hamlet* Wilson reverts to F. It is worth noting that Shakespeare never uses the word *better* in this sense and only once (*Ham.*, 5.2.171) the word *bet*. The word *better'd* is more appropriate in the mouth of the King who here is overwhelming *Hamlet* with courtesy and would hardly call his opponent a *better* fencer. Moreover *better'd* might well be misread or misprinted *better*. The explanation of the passage is probably this: Hamlet tells the King that his Grace has layed the odds (Six Barbary horses was heavy odds against six French rapiers, even with their "most delicate carriages") on the weaker side, inasmuch as he, Hamlet, is a poorer fencer (a polite flourish) than Laertes. The King replies that he is not afraid; he has seen them both fence, but inasmuch as Laertes is *better'd*, i.e. has improved in France (cf. Lamond's praise of Laertes, 4.7.96-102 above) we (plural of majesty) have odds, i.e. have given Hamlet a handicap of three points. Hamlet and the King use the word *odds* in a slightly different signification. Hamlet thinks of the King's heavy stake; the King of Hamlet's handicap.

Ham. This likes me well, these foiles haue all a length?

Osr. I my good Lord.

King. Set me the stoopes of wine vpon that table,
 If *Hamlet* giue the first or second hit,
 280 Or quit in answere of the third exchange,
 Let all the battlements their ordnance fire.
 The King shall drinke to *Hamlets* better breath,
 And in the cup an *Vnion* shall he throwe,
 Richer then that which foure successeiue Kings
 In Denmarks Crowne haue worne: giue me the cups,
 And let the kettle to the trumpet speake,
 The trumpet to the Cannoneere without,

277 Both Q. and F. have a period after *length*. As Hamlet is asking a question, as shown by Osricke's answer, the question mark is needed.

After this line F. has the s.d. *Prepare to play*, a prompt-book direction to the actors, wanting in Shakespeare's ms.

283 The 1604 Qq. read *Vnice*; the 1605 copies *Onixe*, followed with variant spellings by later Qq.; F. *vnion*. Cf. l. 336 below where all Qq., with variant spellings, read *Onixe*, and F. *Vnion*. Q.₁ has no parallel to l. 283 but for l. 336 it reads *lies thy vnion here*, a phrase which would be unintelligible, if there had not been an earlier mention of the thing (*Onyx* or *Union*) which Claudius dropped in the cup, a mention omitted by the negligent reporter of Q.₁. Malone's collation of a 1604 Q., preserved in his notes in the Bodleian copy of the undated Q., gives *Onix* (*Onixe*) in both l. 283 and l. 336. If he was right the alteration from *Vnice* to *Onixe* in l. 283 was made in a copy of a 1604 Q. no longer extant, before the alterations in the 1605 issues. Since there are no variants in the extant copies of Q. 1604 (save the two noted above, 1.4.69 and 1.5.7 which are not comparable to this case), it seems likely that Malone's *Onix* in l. 283 was suggested to him by *Onixe* in l. 336, or which is quite possible, that he was using a copy of the 1605 issue.

Greg (*Emend.*, pp. 57-8) believes that Shakespeare wrote *Vnice* (the spelling *vnice* is a variant of "unique"). But the agreement of Q.₁ with F. in l. 336, implying as it does an agreement in l. 283, shows that *union* was the word spoken on Shakespeare's stage. Now a *union* is a pearl, more especially a large pearl; "Pearls are called unions because they are ever found alone"—quotation dated 1672 in *N.E.D.*; cf. also *pearl*, l. 294 below.

It seems most likely that Shakespeare wrote *Vniñ*, with the macron for *n*, in both lines, which the Q. printer first set up as *Vnice* (see Wilson, *MS. of Hamlet*, p. 127) and later l. 336 altered to the more familiar *Onixe*.

Shakespeare may have been thinking of the tale of Cleopatra's throwing a pearl into a cup of wine. In *Soliman and Perseda* this pearl is called "Cleopatra's union." In the *Bestrafte Brudermord*, 4.5, the King proposes to put a powdered "oriental diamond" in the cup so that Hamlet may drink his death therewith.

286 F. *Trumpets*; the final *s* is wrong as is shown by the F. *Trumpet* in the next line.

- The Cannons to the heauens, the heauen to earth,
 Now the King drinke to *Hamlet*, come beginne. *Trumpets*
 290 And you the Iudges beare a wary eye. *the while.*
Ham. Come on fir.
Laer. Come my Lord.
Ham. One.
Laer. No.
Ham. Iudgement.
Osrick. A hit, a very palpable hit. *Drum, trumpets and fhot.*
Laer. Well, againe. *Florish, a peece goes off.*
King. Stay, giue me drinke, *Hamlet* this pearle is thine.
 Heeres to thy health : giue him the cup.
Ham. Ile play this bout firft, fet it by a while.
 Come, another hit. What fay you?
Laer. A touch, a touch, I doe confes't.
King. Our fonne fhall winne.

289-90 After these lines Q. has in the right hand margin the s.d. *Trumpets the while* lacking in F. This would seem to be an original note, omitted by the scribe, or perhaps cancelled after an early performance.

291 For Q. **Come my Lord**. F. has *Come on fir*, a scribal repetition of Hamlet's words in the preceding line.

In the right hand margin opposite this line F. has the s.d. *They play*, a prompter's note wanting in Q.

292-3 Wilson calls the Q. s.d. after these lines "a duplicate since the second line of the s.d. repeats the first." He suggests that the first was written in by the prompter. This is not necessary since Shakespeare may have wanted two blasts of trumpets and two "shots" for the two bouts in which Hamlet wins. The corresponding s.d. in F. comes after ? 294, *Trumpets found, and fhot goes off*. This consolidates the two directions in a more practical form and also, an interesting point, it eliminates the **Drum**, reserving it for the entry of Fortinbras, l. 372 below.

295 F. omits it in this line.

Q. has no punctuation after **a while** (F. *a-while*) ; the period is supplied from F.

296 In Q. the words **What fay you?** are separated by a considerable space from the preceding text. No such gap appears in F. Probably the Q. printer is following his copy and Shakespeare may have left this space to indicate a pause in the action while Hamlet appeals for judgment on his hit.

297 Q. omits the words **A touch, a touch**, supplied from F. They may be an actor's insertion, but they seem very appropriate in the mouth of Laertes.

Q. *confes't*; F. *confeffe*. Read **confes't**, i.e. confess it.

- Quee.* Hee's fat and scant of breath.
 Heere *Hamlet* take my napkin rub thy browes,
 300 The *Queene* carowfes to thy fortune *Hamlet*.
Ham. Good Madam.
King. *Gertrud* doe not drinke.
Quee. I will my Lord, I pray you pardon me.
King. It is the poyfnd cup, it is too late.
Ham. I dare not drinke yet Madam, by and by.
Quee. Come, let me wipe thy face.
Laer. My Lord, Ile hit him now.
King. I doe not think't.
Laer. And yet it is almost againft my conscience.
Ham. Come for the third *Laertes*, you do but dally.
 I pray you paffe with your best violence,
 310 I am affeard you make a wanton of me.
Laer. Say you fo, come on.
Osr. Nothing neither way.
Laer. Haue at you now. *In scuffling they*
King. Part them, they are incenft. *change Rapiers.*
Ham. Nay come againe.

- 299 F. *Heere's a Napkin*, a careless paraphrase of the line which destroys the meter.
 307 F. 'tis . . . 'gainst, perhaps an attempt to normalize the meter by pronouncing the last word *conscience* as a trisyllable.
 Wilson says *conscience* is always so in Shakespeare, but eight cases at least in *Hamlet* alone show it as a dissyllable. The meter of Q. is perfect, allowing full value to each word and accepting the feminine ending. Probably F. represents an arbitrary alteration of the scribe.
 308 F. omits *doe*, perhaps to normalize the meter."
 309 Q. has no punctuation after *violence*; the comma is supplied from F.
 310 Q. *fure*; F. *afear'd*, followed by all editors and probably correct. To scan Q. by reading *fure* as a dissyllable gives a very awkward rhythm. Possibly the Q. printer read Shakespeare's *afeard* as *afure*, an easy misreading, set up *afure*, and then deleted the initial *a*.
 311 After this line F. has the s.d. *Play*, a prompter's note.
 313 The famous s.d. *In scuffling they change Rapiers* is found only in F. There is no s.d. at all in Q. here. Shakespeare, who certainly intended such a change of weapons (see l. 327 below), left it to the prompter to arrange the method. The s.d. of Q., *They catch one anothers Rapiers, and both are wounded*, shows the method employed on Shakespeare's stage.

Osr. Looke to the Queene there, howe!

Hora. They bleed on both fides, how is it my Lord?

Osr. How ist *Laertes*?

Laer. Why as a woodcock to mine owne sprindge *Osrick*,
I am iustly kild with mine owne treachery.

Ham. How dooes the Queene?

King. Shee founds to fee them bleed.

320 *Quee.* No, no, the drinke, the drinke, ô my deare *Hamlet*.
The drinke the drinke, I am poyned.

Ham. O villanie, how! Let the doore be lock't,
Treachery, feeke it out.

Laer. It is heere *Hamlet*, *Hamlet*, thou art flaine.

No medcin in the world can doe thee good,

In thee there is not halfe an houres life,

The treacherous instrument is in thy hand

Vnbated and enuenom'd, the foule practife

Hath turn'd it felfe on me, loe heere I lie

330 Neuer to rife againe, thy mother's poyned,

I can no more, the King, the Kings too blame.

Ham. The point inuenom'd to, then venome to thy worke.

All. Treafon, treafon.

Hurts the King.

314 Neither Q. nor F. has any punctuation after *there*. A comma would correspond to the light punctuation of Q.

Q. *howe*; F. *hoa*. Both variants of *ho*, the technical word used by the judge of a combat, here *Osrick*, to stop its progress (cf. Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*, ll. 1706 and 2056); *Osrick* sees the fallen Queen and the bleeding fencers and very properly stops the match.

315 F. *is't*.

317₉ F. omits *owne* and spoils the meter.

322 Q. *how let*; F. *How? Let*. As in l. 314 *how* = *ho*. The question mark in F. stands for an exclamation. It is unlikely that Hamlet is asking a question here.

324 Q. omits the second *Hamlet*, in this line, supplied from F., *metris causa*. It would have been easy for the Q. printer to omit it.

326 F. and Q. *halfe an houre of*, perhaps an attempt to normalize the meter, but Q. is correct if *houres* is dissyllabic.

327 Q. *my hand*; Q. *F. thy hand*. This is either an accidental error by the Q. printer or a miscorrection. The copy before him lacked the s.d. directing the change of swords and the printer, or the "corrector," may have thought that Laertes still held the treacherous instrument. The mistake cannot be due to carelessness on Shakespeare's part, for in ll. 328-9 he makes Laertes say: the foule practife hath turn'd it felfe on me, indicating that Laertes knew that he had been hit by the unbated and poisoned sword in Hamlet's hand.

332 After this line F. has the s.d. *Hurts the King* wanting, like most s.d. in this scene, in Q.

King. O yet defend me friends, I am but hurt.

Ham. Heare thou incestious, murtherous, damned Dane,
Drinke off this potion, is thy Vnion heere?
Follow my mother. *King Dyes.*

Laer. He is iustly ferued,
It is a poyson temperd by himfelfe,
340 Exchange forgiuenesse with me noble *Hamlet*,
Mine and my fathers death come not vpon thee,
Nor thine on me. *Dyes.*

Ham. Heauen make thee free of it, I follow thee;
I am dead *Horatio*, wretched Queene adiew.
You that looke pale, and tremble at this chance,
That are but mutes, or audience to this act,
Had I but time, as this fell fergeant Death
Is strict in his arrest, ô I could tell you,
But let it be; *Horatio* I am dead,
350 Thou liuest, report me and my cause a right
To the vnfatisfied.

Hora. Neuer belieue it;
I am more an anticke Romaine then a Dane,
Heere's yet some liquer left.

Ham. As th'art a man
Giue me the cup, let goe, by heauen Ile ha't,
O god *Horatio*, what a wounded name

336 *Q. Heare*, a Shakespearean spelling as in l. 243 above, F. modernizes *Heere*.

Q. omits *murtherous*, supplied from F., *metris causa*.

336 *Q. of*; F. modernizes *off*, which the sense requires.

Q. the Onixe; F. *thy Union*, see note on l. 283 above.

338 After this line F. has the s.d. *King Dyes*.

339 *Q.* prints the words *He is* to *himfelfe* as one line. F. corrects the alignment.

342 After this line F. has the s.d. *Dyes*.

350 F. *my causes right*, a paraphrase.

354 *Q. hate*, contracted form for *have it*; F. *haue't*.

355 *Q. O god*; F. *Oh good*, followed by many editors; but F. shows the censor's "correction"; cf. *Oth.* 5.2.218, where *Q.* has *O god*, *O heauenly god*, altered in F. to *O heauen! O heauenly powers*. The passionate cry *O god Horatio* is much more in keeping with the situation than the tame *Oh good Horatio*. It is worth noting that *Q.* capitalizes *god* shewing that the printer of that copy recognized the word as a noun and not the adjective.

Things fstanding thus vnknowne, fhall liue behind me?
 If thou did'ft euer hold me in thy hart,
 Absent thee from felicity a while,
 And in this harfh world drawe thy breath in paine
 360 To tell my fstory: what warlike noife is this? *A march a farre off.*

Enter Ofrick.

Ofr. Young *Fortinbrasse* with conqueft come from Poland,
 To th'embassadors of *England* giues
 This warlike volly.

Ham. O I die *Horatio*,

The potent poyfon quite ore-crowes my fpirit,
 • I cannot liue to heare the newes from *England*,
 But I doe prophecie th'ellection lights
 On *Fortinbrasse*, he has my dying voyce,
 So tell him, with th'occurrants more and lesse
 Which haue folicited, the rest is filence. *Dyes.*
 370 *Hora.* Now cracks a noble hart, good night fweete Prince,
 And flights of Angels fing thee to thy rest.
 Why dooes the drum come hether?

Enter Fortinbrasse, with the Embassadors.

For. Where is this fight?

Hora. What is it you would fee?

If ought of woe, or wonder, ceafe your fearch.

356 *Q.* *fhall I leave*; *F.* *fhall live*, followed by most editors. The *Q.* text makes sense, but *F.* is decidedly better in rhythm and diction. Probably Shakespeare's *liue* (undotted *i*) was misread by the *Q.* printer as *leue* (*leave*) (cf. 3.4.158) and *I* was inserted to make some sense. *Q.* has *leau* in a badly reported passage.

360 To the *Q.* s.d. after this line, *F.* adds *and fhout within*, a prompter's addition, not required by the text, for the *warlike noife* of which Hamlet speaks is the music of the march.

Both *Q.* and *F.* have here the s.d. *Enter Ofrick(e)*. There has been no exit for this character, but he must have left the stage with the flight of the courtiers after Hamlet killed the King. Wilson sends him out after *story*, l. 360, to inquire into the *noife*.

363 •*Q.* and *F.* print *this* (*F.* misprints *this*) *warlike volly* as part of l. 362.

368 *F.* *the occurants* for *Q.* *th' occurants*.

369 After *filence* *F.* has *O, o, o, o*, an actor's interpolation, followed by the s.d. *Dyes*, wanting in *Q.*

370 *F.* *cracke*, a misprint.

372 The *F.* s.d. after this line has the singular *English Ambaffador* for the *Q.* plural, thus saving one actor. It also adds *Drumme* (see note on ll. 292-3) *Colours*, and *Attendants*. The prompter is setting the stage for the military funeral which follows.

373 *F.* *ye* for *Q.* *you*.

For. This quarry cries on hauock, ô proud death
 What feaft is toward in thine eternall cell,
 That thou fo many Princes at a fhot
 So bloudily haft ftrook?

Embas. The fight is difmall
 And our affaires from *England* dôme too late,
 380 The eares are fenceleffe that fhould giue vs hearing,
 To tell him his commandment is fulfild,
 That *Rofencrans* and *Guyldenfterne* are dead,
 Where fhould we haue our thanks?

Hora. Not from his mouth
 Had it th'ability of life to thanke you;
 He neuer gaue commandement for their death;
 But fince fo iump vpon this bloody queftion
 You from the *Pollack* warres, and you from *England*
 Are heere arriued, giue order that thefe bodies
 High on a ftage be placed to the view,
 390 And let me fpeake, to th' yet vnknowing world
 How thefe things came about; fo fhall you heare
 Of carnall, bloody and vnnaturall acts,
 Of accidentall iudgements, cafuall flaughters,
 Of deaths put on by cunning, and forc'd caufe,
 And in this vpfhot, purpofes miftooke
 Falne on th'inuenter's heads: all this can I
 Truly deliuer.

For. Let vs haft to heare it,
 And call the nobleft to the audience,
 For me, with forrowe I embrace my fortune,
 400 I haue fome rights of memory in this kingdome,
 Which now to claime my vantage doth inuite me.

375 F. *His* for Q. *This*.

Q. *prov'd*; F. correctly *proud*. Perhaps the Q. printer thought the word was *prov'd*.

387 Q. has a period after *England*. F. properly deletes it.

390 Q. *to yet*; F. correctly *to th' yet*. The Q. printer had dropped the article.

394 Q. *for no*; F. correctly *forc'd*. The Q. printer misread *c* as *n* and *d* as *o* and made two words out of one.

Q. has no punctuation after *ause*; the comma is supplied from F.

395 Both Q. and F. have an intrusive comma after *miftooke*.

396 F. *the Inuenter* for Q. *th' inuenter*.

398 F. has a period after *audience*.

400 Q. *rights*; F. *Rites*, variant spellings; cf. notes on 4.2.215 above and on l. 410 below. Q. has an unnecessary comma after *rights*.

Hora. Of that I fhall haue alfo caufe to fpeake,
And from his mouth, whofe voyce will draw on more,
But let this fame be prefently perform'd
Euen while mens mindes are wilde, leaft more mifchance
On plots and errores happen.

For. Let foure Captaines
Beare *Hamlet* like a fouldier to the ftage,
For he was likely, had he beene put on,
To haue prooued moft royall; and for his paffage,
410 The fouldiers muſicke and the rites of warre
Speake loudly for him:
Take vp the bodies, ſuch a fight as this,
Becomes the field, but heere ſhowes much amiſſe.
Goe bid the foldiers ſhoote. *Exeunt.*

FINIS.

402 *Q. alfo*; F. *alwaies*, an arbitrary change impairing the ſenſe.

403 *Q. drawe no*; F. correctly *draw on*. *Q.* is probably a misprint, a transposition of letters. Wilson ſuſpects a miſcorrection, "perhaps due to the idea that Hamlet's voice could not be 'drawn' in death."

409 *Q. royall*; F. *royally*, followed by moſt editors, but it is the uſual ſcribe's practice of changing an adjective uſed adverbially into an adverb; cf. note on 1.1.175. The *Q.* line lacks an unaccented ſyllable, but this is ſupplied by the pauſe following the ſemicolon.

410 *Q. right*; F. correctly *rites*, cf. note on l. 400 above.

412 F. *body*. The F. ſcribe thought only of the dead Hamlet. Shakespeare knew that the bodies of the King, Queen, and Laertes had alſo to be carried off the ſtage. *Q.* alſo reads *bodie* which may indicate that in performance the other bodies had been ſilently carried off and only Hamlet's left for the final ſpectacle.

414 For the ſ.d. *Exeunt* after this line F. has *Exeunt Marching*: after the which, a Peale of Ordnance are ſhot off., a prompter's direction for the military funeral accorded to Hamlet.

